

SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

HB 5002

Department of Agriculture

HB 5002 is the budget bill for the Department of Agriculture. The Department of Agriculture ensures food safety, protects agricultural natural resources, and promotes economic development in the agricultural industry. The budget for the Department totals \$126.8 million. The budget includes \$24.3 million General Fund, \$10.6 million Lottery Funds, \$74.4 million Other Funds, \$17.5 million Federal Funds, and 380.64 FTE.

The total funds budget is 6% higher than the 2017-19 approved levels and General Fund is 3% higher. The budget includes a one-time addition of \$2.6 million in constitutionally dedicated Lottery Funds to combat the invasive Japanese Beetle. There is a budget note directing the Department to work with the Oregon Liquor Control Commission and Oregon Health Authority to determine an appropriate funding mechanism for the Department's lab expenses for cannabis cases that are referred by those agencies. The Plant Program, Shipping Point Program, and the Fertilizer program added positions to keep up with increasing workload and \$1.4 million Federal Funds expenditure limitation was added to help Oregon's produce farmers comply with the federal Food Safety Modernization Act.

The budget includes fee increases for the Food Safety, Weights and Measures, Certifications, and Hemp programs and assumes approval of increases to statutory fee caps in HB 2057, HB 2059, and HB 2061.

The Natural Resources Subcommittee recommends HB 5002 be amended by the –1 amendment and be reported out do pass, as amended.