

HB 2444 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Prepared By: Tim Walker, Budget Analyst

Meeting Dates: 6/5

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Requires Oregon Department of Education (ODE) to coordinate with Oregon Future Farmers of America (FFA) to increase student achievement and improve graduation rates, college preparation, and career placement for students enrolled in secondary agricultural courses. Requires students enrolled in agricultural education programs in grades 9 through 12 to be enrolled in national FFA organization. Requires coordination between ODE and Oregon FFA to provide financial support for leadership and development, host competitive events and conventions for student award programs, and work with the Oregon State Fair to plan FFA participation. Appropriates \$1,430,000 out of the General Fund to ODE to be expended on Oregon FFA. Establishes grant program with certain criteria to be administered by ODE for agricultural programs during summer months. Specifies data collection and reporting requirements. Appropriates \$600,000 out of General Fund for grant program. Declares emergency, effective July 1, 2019.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

The Future Farmers of America (FFA) was founded nationally by a group of young farmers in 1928. It exists in all 50 states, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands with 8,630 chapters. Students in FFA participate in development opportunities that encourage leadership, professional growth, and career success through agricultural education. Prior to 2011, the State of Oregon funded the Oregon chapter of FFA through the Department of Education (ODE).

House Bill 2444-A requires ODE to coordinate with Oregon FFA to increase student achievement and improve graduation rates, college preparation, and career placement for students enrolled in secondary agricultural courses: it requires students in grades 9-12 to be enrolled in national FFA if they are enrolled in agricultural education programs; it provides funding for ODE and Oregon FFA to coordinate competitive events, conventions, and participation in the Oregon State Fair; and it establishes a grant program for personnel to manage agricultural programs during the summer months. It appropriates \$1,430,000 General Fund dollars for coordination purposes and \$600,000 for the grant program.