

SB 885 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Environment and Natural Resources

Action Date: 04/04/19

Action: Do pass and requesting referral to Ways and Means.

Vote: 3-2-0-0

Yeas: 3 - Dembrow, Prozanski, Roblan

Nays: 2 - Bentz, Olsen

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: No revenue impact

Prepared By: Beth Patrino, LPRO Analyst

Meeting Dates: 4/2, 4/4

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Specifies boundaries of the Willamette Valley Protected District (District). Requires person growing canola in the District to receive prior approval by license from the Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA). Permits ODA to authorize a person to grow canola in the District only in a manner determined to be compatible with the growing of other crops. Authorizes canola production in district not to exceed 500 acres per year. Requires ODA to develop recommendations for ensuring co-existence of canola and other crops, including means for providing protections adequate to maintain the unique attributes of the state's specialty seed industry. Authorizes ODA to assess civil penalty, not to exceed \$25,000, for violation. Applies retroactively to July 1, 2019. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- How current authorization has worked
- Number of acres requested for canola production
- Use of canola as rotation crop
- Concern regarding cross pollination between canola and specialty seed crops

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

In 2013, the Legislative Assembly passed House Bill 2427 directing the College of Agricultural Sciences at Oregon State University to study canola and report the results to an interim committee of the Legislative Assembly by November 1, 2017. The measure also prohibited the growing of canola in the Willamette Valley with an exception for 500 acres necessary to conduct the study. In 2015, House Bill 3382 amended that law allowing the Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) to authorize up to 500 acres for the commercial production of canola in the Willamette Valley Protected District (District) with certain restrictions. The measure also extended the sunset prohibiting the growing of canola in the District to January 2, 2020.

Senate Bill 885 would continue ODA authority to allow up to 500 acres of canola production in the Willamette Valley Protected District.