

HB 4072 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Agriculture and Land Use

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Meeting Dates: 2/5

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Directs Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) to administer Oregon Hemp State Program for studying growth, cultivation and marketing of hemp. Requires ODA to adopt rules, that conform but are not more stringent, to implement State Plan in accordance with the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (P.L. 115-334) and subsequent federal law. Changes term "industrial hemp" to "hemp" and "registered grower" to "licensed grower." Requires ODA to conduct criminal records check of applicants for licensure related to hemp. Takes effect on 91st day following adjournment sine die.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Industrial hemp is an agricultural product that is subject to regulation by the Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) and refers to cannabis varieties that are grown for fiber, seed, oil, or as a cover crop. The legislature has passed a series of laws related to industrial hemp over the past decade. In 2009, the Legislative Assembly enacted Senate Bill 676, which authorized the production, possession, and commerce of industrial hemp commodities in Oregon. Oregon's first industrial hemp grower was licensed by ODA in early 2015. In 2016, House Bill 4060 updated and clarified provisions related to the regulation of industrial hemp and authorized ODA to adopt rules to govern quality, packaging, and labeling of industrial hemp seed. In 2017, House Bill 1015 provided for processing and sales of industrial hemp concentrates and extracts. In 2018, House Bill 4089 established the Oregon Industrial Hemp Agricultural Pilot Program, an agricultural hemp seed certificate program, the Industrial Hemp Fund, and further modified industrial hemp statutes related to testing, regulation, personal possession, and tetrahydrocannabinol concentration limits.

House Bill 4072 directs ODA to administer the Oregon Hemp State Program for studying growth, cultivation and marketing of hemp and requires ODA to adopt rules, that conform but are not more stringent, to implement the State Plan in accordance with the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (P.L. 115-334) and subsequent federal law.