

HB 4013 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Judiciary

Prepared By: Michael Lantz, Counsel

Meeting Dates: 2/20

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Directs Governor's Office, Oregon Health Authority (OHA), Oregon Liquor Control Commission (OLCC), and Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) to develop plan for the future regulation of kratom in collaboration with the kratom industry. Requires report to Legislative Assembly by December 31, 2020. Makes distribution, sale, or attempted sale of kratom containing product to individual under 21 a Class C misdemeanor. Creates definitions. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Kratom (*Mitragyna speciosa*) is a tree in the coffee family native to southeast Asia. Kratom leaves are typically chewed, brewed, or crushed into a powder and sold as pills, capsules, teas, or extracts. Kratom consumption produces stimulant effects in low doses and sedative effects in high doses. It can be used recreationally, to treat pain, and for opioid cessation, though there are few scientific studies on the effects of kratom use or the effectiveness of treatments involving kratom. The U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration lists kratom as a drug of concern and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration warned consumers in September 2019 not to use kratom as it appears to have properties that expose users to the risks of addiction, abuse, and dependence. Kratom is not currently regulated at the federal level, though several states (Alabama, Arkansas, Indiana, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Vermont, and Wisconsin) have bans on the production and sale of kratom-containing products.

House Bill 4013-A directs the Governor's Office and specified state agencies to develop a plan for the future regulation of kratom in collaboration with the kratom industry and prohibits the distribution and sale of kratom to those under 21.