

HB 2785 -3 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Agriculture and Natural Resources

Prepared By: Stuty Maskey, LPRO Analyst

Sub-Referral To: Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Meeting Dates: 2/4

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Directs Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) to establish by rule a grant program for the purpose of funding upgrades to establishments that are expected to operate under the state meat inspection program. Requires ODA to develop criteria for receiving a grant and applying for a grant, and allows ODA to establish reporting requirements for the use of grant funds. Appropriates \$10 million General Fund moneys to ODA to fund grant program. Sunsets grant program on January 2, 2027. Takes effect on 91st day following adjournment side die.

REVENUE: May have revenue impact, but no statement yet issued.

FISCAL: May have fiscal impact, but no statement yet issued.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-3 Expands grant program to include funding for construction of new establishments that are expected to operate under the state meat inspection program, and funding for expansion of establishments that operate under a program of federal inspection and plan to increase processing of meat from animals raised in Oregon. For program administration, adds requirement for ODA to preferentially award grants to support establishments that prioritize seasonally feasible processing of meat from animals raised in Oregon. Specifies grant recipients may use grant funds for technical assistance and equipment purchase as part of facility upgrades and construction. Establishes legislative findings. Changes designation of \$10 million General Fund appropriation to ODA for the grant program to \$9.7 million for that purpose, and \$300,000 to Oregon State University, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2021 to upgrade Clark Meat Science Center facilities and equipment for consistency with inspection requirements.

BACKGROUND:

The Wholesome Meat Act of 1967 requires states to have inspection programs “at least equal to” the federal meat inspection program. The Oregon legislature passed House Bill 4206 in 2020 that authorizes the Oregon Department of Agriculture to establish a program by rule for state inspection of the processing and sale of meat products from amenable and nonamenable species, except for equine species.

House Bill 2785 would direct the Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) to establish by rule a grant program to fund upgrades to establishments that are expected to operate under the state meat inspection program, require ODA to develop grant program criteria, and appropriate \$10 million General Fund to ODA to fund the grant program.