

HB 3249 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Agriculture and Natural Resources

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Sub-Referral To: Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Meeting Dates: 4/6

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Directs the Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA), in consultation with the Minor Crops Advisory Committee (Committee), to establish a grant program to fund research on alternatives to chlorpyrifos. Directs ODA and Committee to consult with commodity commissions and Oregon State University (OSU) to develop priority areas for grant funding. Requires research funded by grant program to be completed no later than December 31, 2024. Requires ODA to report to interim legislative committees on research results no later than September 15, 2025.

Directs OSU, in cooperation with the US Department of Agriculture's Interregional Project Number 4, to research alternatives to chlorpyrifos. Requires OSU to consult broadly with agricultural stakeholders to design trials to address priority crops and pests. Requires research be completed by December 31, 2024 and OSU to report to interim legislative committees on research results no later than September 15, 2025.

Appropriates \$400,000 to OSU to conduct specified research. Takes effect on 91st day following adjournment sine 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:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, chlorpyrifos is used primarily to control foliage and soil-borne insect pests on a variety of food and feed crops. Chlorpyrifos has been used in the U.S. since 1965 in both agricultural and nonagricultural settings, including on corn, soybeans, fruit and nut trees, golf courses, and nonstructural wood treatments such as utility poles and fence posts. In December 2020, the Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) adopted a rule that significantly limits the use of chlorpyrifos and phases out nearly all use by December 31, 2023.

House Bill 3249 would direct the Oregon Department of Agriculture to establish a grant program to fund research on alternatives to chlorpyrifos and appropriate \$800,000 for this purpose. The measure would also direct Oregon State University to conduct research on chlorpyrifos alternatives.