

SB 33 -1 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Prepared By: John Terpening, Budget Analyst

Meeting Dates: 6/14, 6/16

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Authorizes the Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) to increase by rule certain food safety program license fees. The increase for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2022 is capped at 15 percent of the amount of the license fee for the preceding fiscal year. The increase for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2023 is capped at 15 percent of the license fee for the preceding fiscal year, excluding any increases that were made under this measure starting in the 2022 fiscal year. Increases to license fees under this measure do not preclude ODA from modifying or imposing additional license fees; under HB 2059 (2019) ODA was also granted the authority to increase fees by 3% annually through fiscal year 2025. This measure contains an emergency clause and takes effect on passage, allowing ODA to immediately begin rulemaking around potential fee increases.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Fiscal impact of the measure
- Proposed amendment

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-1 Reduces the fee limit for each fiscal year listed in the measure from 15% to 7%.

BACKGROUND:

The mission of the Oregon Department of Agriculture's (ODA) food safety program is to help prevent the spread of foodborne illness. According to ODA, this mission is accomplished through "monitoring Oregon's food industry; enforcing state sanitation laws; inspecting food establishments in Oregon; and working to ensure the consumer gets food that is not contaminated, mislabeled, misrepresented or changed in any way that would impair safety, wholesomeness or purity." ODA issues food safety licenses for a variety of activities related to food manufacturing and processing. House Bill 33 would authorize ODA to increase certain food safety license fees by rule by no more than 15 percent for the fiscal years beginning July 1, 2022 and July 1, 2023.