

A-Engrossed
House Bill 2785

Ordered by the House March 16
Including House Amendments dated March 16

Sponsored by Representatives SMITH DB, OWENS; Representatives MARSH, NEARMAN, RESCHKE, WILDE, WILLIAMS, ZIKA (Presession filed.)

SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure.

Directs State Department of Agriculture to establish grant program to fund upgrades to establishments expected to operate under program of state meat inspection, **construction of new establishments expected to operate under program of state meat inspection and expansion of certain establishments that operate under program of federal inspection.**

Appropriates moneys to department out of General Fund for purpose of funding grant program. Sunsets grant program on January 2, 2027.

Takes effect on 91st day following adjournment sine die.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1
2 Relating to meat inspection; and prescribing an effective date.

3 Whereas Oregon's already acute lack of meat processing capacity has been severely strained
4 during the COVID-19 pandemic, as industrial meat processing facilities around the country were
5 closed due to virus outbreaks and out-of-state producers sent animals to the Pacific Northwest for
6 processing, reducing much needed processing capacity for Oregon's farmers and ranchers; and

7 Whereas increased demand for local meat during the COVID-19 pandemic further taxed an al-
8 ready burdened meat processing system; and

9 Whereas breakdowns in the industrial food system during the COVID-19 pandemic have high-
10 lighted the need for long-term investment in Oregon's regional food infrastructure, including in-
11 vestment in increased meat processing capacity; now, therefore,

12 **Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:**

13 **SECTION 1.** (1) **The State Department of Agriculture shall establish by rule a grant**
14 **program for the purpose of funding:**

15 (a) **Upgrades to establishments that are expected to operate under a program of state**
16 **inspection authorized by section 2, chapter 6, Oregon Laws 2020 (first special session);**

17 (b) **Construction of new establishments that are expected to operate under a program of**
18 **state inspection authorized by section 2, chapter 6, Oregon Laws 2020 (first special session);**
19 **and**

20 (c) **Expansion of establishments that operate under a program of federal inspection and**
21 **plan to increase processing of meat from animals raised in Oregon.**

22 (2) **In administering the program, the department:**

23 (a) **Shall develop criteria for awarding a grant and a process for applying for a grant;**

24 (b) **Shall preferentially award grants to support establishments that prioritize seasonally**
25 **feasible processing of meat from animals raised in Oregon; and**

NOTE: Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter [*italic and bracketed*] is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 (c) May require a recipient of a grant to report to the department on the use of grant
2 funds.

3 (3) A recipient of a grant may use grant funds for costs related to the activities described
4 in subsection (1) of this section, such as costs of technical assistance and the purchase of
5 equipment.

6 SECTION 2. (1) There is appropriated to the State Department of Agriculture, out of the
7 General Fund, the amount of \$9,700,000 for the purpose specified in section 1 of this 2021 Act.
8 The appropriation is available continuously until the earlier of the date on which the amount
9 is expended for the purpose specified in section 1 of this 2021 Act or January 1, 2027.

10 (2) There is appropriated to Oregon State University, for the biennium beginning July 1,
11 2021, out of the General Fund, the amount of \$300,000 for the purpose of funding upgrades
12 to facilities and equipment at the Clark Meat Science Center that are consistent with in-
13 spection requirements.

14 SECTION 3. Section 1 of this 2021 Act is repealed on January 2, 2027.

15 SECTION 4. This 2021 Act takes effect on the 91st day after the date on which the 2021
16 regular session of the Eighty-first Legislative Assembly adjourns sine die.

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