

# DRAFT

## SUMMARY

Digest: The Act tells an agency to assess topics related to farming in Oregon. The Act tells the agency to report on the topics. (Flesch Readability Score: 62.7).

Requires the State Department of Agriculture to submit a report on the economic competitiveness of Oregon's agricultural sector to a committee or interim committee of the Legislative Assembly related to natural resources no later than December 31, 2026.

Sunsets the requirement on January 2, 2027.

Takes effect on the 91st day following adjournment sine die.

## A BILL FOR AN ACT

Relating to supporting Oregon agriculture; and prescribing an effective date.

Whereas Oregon agriculture is vital to the health and prosperity of all Oregonians; and

Whereas Oregon agriculture is the second largest economic sector in Oregon; and

Whereas food, fiber, plant and livestock production are critical sectors when considering and attempting to maximize state competitiveness; and

Whereas for agriculture to remain sustainable for future generations in Oregon, a balance of economic, environmental and social values must be considered; and

Whereas after the COVID-19 pandemic the global economy is changing and contracting dramatically, and Oregon must be prepared to adapt to new economic conditions; now, therefore,

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

**SECTION 1. (1) The State Department of Agriculture shall conduct**

1 an analysis of the economic competitiveness of Oregon's agricultural  
2 sector and submit a report on the analysis, in the manner prescribed  
3 in ORS 192.245, to a committee or interim committee of the Legislative  
4 Assembly related to natural resources on or before December 31, 2026.

5 (2) The analysis must assess, at minimum:

6 (a) The economic competitiveness of Oregon agricultural products  
7 within the United States domestic market, considering:

8 (A) The impacts of drought, heat, wildfire, climate change and wa-  
9 ter availability on crop production and harvest losses, and any asso-  
10 ciated crop insurance gaps related to the impacts.

11 (B) Labor shortages, farmworker housing supply, costs of guest  
12 worker programs and tax credits related to labor and housing.

13 (C) The overall regulatory burden on Oregon agricultural entities,  
14 including the cost of compliance verification, compared to regulatory  
15 burdens on other sectors within this state and compared to agricul-  
16 tural sectors in other states.

17 (D) Any competitive advantages that agricultural sectors in other  
18 states attain through ecosystem practice payments, carbon  
19 sequestration payments and other incentive programs, as well as  
20 through investments in solutions such as drought-resilient crops.

21 (E) Specialty or niche agricultural sectors that may present strong  
22 economic opportunities in national or international markets.

23 (F) The viability of local food markets in Oregon.

24 (G) Regional capacity to add value to Oregon commodities.

25 (H) The transfer and succession of agricultural operations or lands  
26 to protect and sustain the agricultural economy.

27 (b) How technological advancements can improve the  
28 competitiveness and sustainability of Oregon agricultural products,  
29 and whether there are any barriers to adopting technological ad-  
30 vancements.

31 (c) The efficiency of agricultural infrastructure that is crucial for

1 getting products to market, such as the efficiency of transportation  
2 networks, storage facilities and processing plants.

3 (d) How implementing climate-smart agricultural practices can en-  
4 hance long-term competitiveness and environmental stewardship, in-  
5 cluding the potential agricultural practice of accessing new markets  
6 that prioritize sustainability.

7 (e) The impacts on the Oregon agricultural sector from changes in  
8 the global market and supply chains after 2020, considering:

9 (A) Whether Oregon should increase produce as a component of the  
10 overall agricultural sector in this state.

11 (B) The costs of agricultural inputs, including fuels, fertilizers,  
12 other chemical inputs and energy.

13 (f) The impacts on the Oregon agricultural sector from foreign in-  
14 vestment in Oregon agricultural land.

15 (3) In completing the analysis, the department shall seek and con-  
16 sider input from stakeholders representing the diversity of Oregon's  
17 agricultural sector, including but not limited to Indian tribes, various  
18 types and sizes of agricultural operations, farmworkers, experts from  
19 universities and others with relevant agricultural experience.

20 (4) The report must include recommendations that may form the  
21 basis of a new or revised strategic road map aimed at ensuring the  
22 competitiveness of Oregon agriculture, based on the results of the  
23 analysis.

24 (5) The department may contract for completion of the analysis and  
25 the report.

26 (6) All agencies of state government, as defined in ORS 174.111, are  
27 directed to assist the department, as requested by the department, in  
28 the performance of the duties described in this section.

29 SECTION 2. Section 1 of this 2025 Act is repealed on January 2, 2027.

30 SECTION 3. This 2025 Act takes effect on the 91st day after the date  
31 on which the 2025 regular session of the Eighty-third Legislative As-

1 **sembly adjourns sine die.**

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