

SB 1058 -2 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Rules

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Meeting Dates: 5/25

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Directs the Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) to study the expansion of organic agricultural sectors and to submit a report to agriculture-related interim legislative committees by September 15, 2024.

FISCAL: Fiscal impact issued

REVENUE: Revenue impact issued

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-2 Directs ODA to establish a program to support and expand organic agricultural sectors. Requires ODA to provide reimbursement to agricultural producers for the difference between total organic certification cost and reimbursement received from the federal program. Requires ODA to provide assistance with transitioning to organic agricultural practices, including certification costs for those producers that are not receiving reimbursement from the federal program, soil testing, and registration fees for educational programs related to organic agriculture. Authorizes ODA to adopt rules and appropriates an unspecified amount General Fund moneys to ODA for implementation.

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

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

BACKGROUND:

"Organic" is a labeling term for food or other agricultural products that have been produced in accordance with United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) organic regulations, without the use of synthetic fertilizers or pesticides, sewage sludge, irradiation, or genetic engineering.

The Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) is a USDA-accredited certifying agent for organic crop production and organic handling and processing. If an agricultural producer or marketer labels or represents crops, livestock, livestock products, or other agricultural products as "100 percent organic," "organic," or "made with organic" ingredients, the operation must be certified as organic by ODA. Since Fiscal Year 2010, USDA has provided organic certification cost share assistance to Oregon producers and handlers for 50 percent reimbursement of certification or certification renewal fees on a first-come, first-served basis until available funds have been disbursed.

Senate Bill 1058 would direct ODA to study the expansion of organic agricultural sectors and to submit a report to agriculture-related interim legislative committees by September 15, 2024.