

HB 2610 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water

Action Date: 03/14/23

Action: Do pass and be referred to Ways and Means by prior reference

Vote: 8-0-1-0

Yeas: 8 - Boice, Gamba, Hartman, Helm, Levy B, Marsh, McLain, Owens

Exc: 1 - Scharf

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: No revenue impact

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Meeting Dates: 2/2, 3/14

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Requires Oregon State University (OSU), in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Minor Crop Pest Management Program, to study reduced-risk pest management tools for Oregon’s specialty crops. Requires OSU to consult with agricultural stakeholders to design trials addressing priority crops and pests. Directs OSU to report findings to the agriculture-related interim committees of the Legislative Assembly by September 15, 2027. Appropriates \$1 million General Fund moneys to the Higher Education Coordinating Commission for distribution to OSU. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Effects of pesticides on aquatic life downstream
- Importance of agricultural products in Oregon
- Abundance of specialty crops in Oregon

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Specialty crops are plants cultivated or managed and used by people for food, medicinal purposes, or aesthetic gratification, and include fruits and vegetables, tree nuts, and flowers. While Oregon produces over 240 such commodities, specialty crops are considered minor markets and, as such, specific pest management tools are not usually developed by the private sector. The U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Interregional Research Project Number 4 (IR-4) is a program that has supplied pest management tools for specialty crop growers since 1963 by researching tolerances of residues.

House Bill 2610 appropriates \$1 million to Oregon State University to study reduced-risk pest management tools for Oregon’s specialty crops.