

HB 3244 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

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

Action Date: 03/28/23

Action: Do pass with amendments and be referred to Ways and Means. (Printed A-Eng.)

Vote: 9-0-0-0

Yeas: 9 - Boice, Gamba, Hartman, Helm, Levy B, Marsh, McLain, Owens, Scharf

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: No revenue impact

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Meeting Dates: 3/14, 3/28

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Directs the Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) to conduct or contract an analysis of the economic competitiveness of Oregon’s agricultural sector, including the competitiveness of Oregon’s agricultural products within the U.S. domestic market, impacts on Oregon’s agricultural sector from changes in the global market and supply chains after 2020, and foreign investments in Oregon agricultural land. Requires ODA to seek and consider input from stakeholders representing Oregon’s agricultural sector, including Indian tribes, various types and sizes of agricultural operations, farmworkers, and experts. Requires the report to include recommendations aimed at ensuring the competitiveness of Oregon agriculture. Requires all agencies to assist ODA as requested. Requires ODA to submit a report to an agriculture-related interim committee of the Legislative Assembly by September 15, 2024. Sunsets December 31, 2024. Takes effect on 91st day following adjournment sine die.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Types of crops included in the study
- Contribution of agriculture to Oregon's economy
- Intent of the bill

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

Replaces the measure with the exception of whereas clauses, sunset provision, and effective date of the Act.

BACKGROUND:

Oregon’s agricultural sector is a \$45 billion industry and approximately 14 percent of Oregonians, located in all counties, rely on agriculture for their livelihoods. It is estimated that over 250 diverse agricultural products are grown in the state. The COVID-19 global pandemic as well as recent wildfire events affected farmworker populations and the agricultural sector as a whole, but the extent of their effects are not fully quantified.

House Bill 3244 A would direct the Oregon Department of Agriculture to conduct an analysis of the economic competitiveness of Oregon’s agricultural sector and to submit a report to an agriculture-related interim committee of the Legislative Assembly by September 15, 2024.