

HB 3251 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Economic Development and Small Business

Action Date: 03/30/23

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

Vote: 10-0-1-0

Yeas: 10 - Bynum, Diehl, Elmer, Javadi, Lively, Morgan, Osborne, Pham H, Ruiz, Walters

Exc: 1 - Nguyen D

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: No revenue impact

Prepared By: Andrew Hendrie, LPRO Analyst

Meeting Dates: 3/23, 3/30

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Appropriates \$2 million to Oregon Tourism Commission (OTC) to establish and administer grant program to promote, develop, and sustain opportunities for agricultural tourism in rural communities. Defines "rural" for purpose of grant program. Allows OTC to award grant recipient up to \$100,000 in funds. Requires OTC to adopt rules to administrator grant program including application process, eligibility requirements for receiving grant, and standard for determining grant award amount. Permits OTC to use up to five percent of appropriation for administrative costs associated with grant program.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Community partnerships between farms and hospitality providers
- Promotion of farm stands
- Cost to administer grant program.

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

Allows Oregon Tourism Commission (OTC) to award grant recipient up to \$100,000 in funds. Permits OTC to use up to five percent of appropriation for administrative costs associated with the grant program.

BACKGROUND:

House Bill 3251 A appropriates \$2 million to the Oregon Tourism Commission to establish and administer a grant program to promote, develop, and sustain opportunities for agricultural tourism. OTC will award grants to eligible individuals or entities who may use the funds for education and training entities wanting to provide agricultural tourism in rural communities or to foster, develop, and publicize opportunities for agricultural tourism in rural communities.