

HB 2411 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Carrier: Sen. Findley

Senate Committee On Natural Resources

Action Date: 04/12/23

Action: Do pass.

Vote: 5-0-0-0

Yeas: 5 - Girod, Golden, Prozanski, Smith DB, Taylor

Fiscal: No fiscal impact

Revenue: No revenue impact

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Meeting Dates: 4/5, 4/12

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Dissolves the Oregon Alfalfa Seed Commission. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Purpose of commodity commissions
- Changes in Oregon alfalfa seed industry over the last decade
- Oregon Alfalfa Seed Commission requested dissolution

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Alfalfa (*Medicago sativa*) is a plant in the pea family that is typically used as a forage crop, often as hay. Alfalfa seed is produced in three counties in Central Oregon, with most production occurring in Jefferson County. While there used to be significant production in Oregon, currently less than a dozen alfalfa seed producers remain.

Commodity commissions work to support the success of Oregon commodities through policy engagement, enhancing the image of state commodities, creating a receptive market and environment, and educating the public about health attributes and other product qualities. Commodity commissions also support activities and research that benefit the planting, production, harvesting, handling, processing, marketing, and use of Oregon commodities. The Oregon Alfalfa Seed Commission was established in statute in 1990, and its dissolution requires legislative approval to remove it from statute.

House Bill 2411 would dissolve the Oregon Alfalfa Seed Commission.