

**A-Engrossed**  
**House Bill 3244**

Ordered by the House April 4  
Including House Amendments dated April 4

Sponsored by Representatives HELM, OWENS; Representatives EVANS, GAMBA, HARTMAN, LEVY B, SCHARF,  
Senators DEMBROW, PROZANSKI, SMITH DB

**SUMMARY**

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure.

*[Establishes Task Force on the Economic Competitiveness of Oregon Agriculture.]*  
*[Instructs task force]* **Requires State Department of Agriculture** to submit report on **economic competitiveness of Oregon's agricultural sector** to committee or interim committee of Legislative Assembly related to agriculture no later than September 15, 2024.  
Sunsets *[task force]* **requirement** on December 31, 2024.  
Takes effect on 91st day following adjournment sine die.

**A BILL FOR AN ACT**

1  
2 Relating to the economic competitiveness of Oregon agriculture; and prescribing an effective date.

3       Whereas Oregon agriculture is vital to the health and prosperity of all Oregonians; and

4       Whereas Oregon agriculture is the second largest economic sector in Oregon; and

5       Whereas food, fiber, plant and livestock production are critical sectors when considering and  
6 attempting to maximize state competitiveness; and

7       Whereas for agriculture to remain sustainable for future generations in Oregon, a balance of  
8 economic, environmental and social values must be considered; and

9       Whereas after the COVID-19 pandemic the global economy is changing and contracting dra-  
10 matically, and Oregon must be prepared to adapt to new economic conditions; now, therefore,

11 **Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:**

12       **SECTION 1.** (1) **The State Department of Agriculture shall conduct an analysis of the**  
13 **economic competitiveness of Oregon's agricultural sector and submit a report on the analy-**  
14 **sis, in the manner prescribed in ORS 192.245, to a committee or interim committee of the**  
15 **Legislative Assembly related to agriculture on or before September 15, 2024.**

16       (2) **The analysis must, at a minimum:**

17       (a) **Assess the economic competitiveness of Oregon agricultural products within the**  
18 **United States domestic market, considering:**

19       (A) **The impacts of drought, heat, wildfire, climate change and water availability on crop**  
20 **production and harvest losses, and any associated crop insurance gaps related to the im-**  
21 **pacts.**

22       (B) **Labor shortages, farmworker housing supply, costs of guest worker programs and tax**  
23 **credits related to labor and housing.**

24       (C) **The overall regulatory burden on Oregon agricultural entities, including the cost of**  
25 **compliance verification, compared to regulatory burdens on other sectors within this state**

**NOTE:** Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter *[italic and bracketed]* is existing law to be omitted.  
New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 and compared to agricultural sectors in other states.

2 (D) Any competitive advantages that agricultural sectors in other states attain through  
3 ecosystem practice payments, carbon sequestration payments and other incentive programs,  
4 as well as through investments in solutions such as drought-resilient crops.

5 (E) Specialty or niche agricultural sectors that may present strong economic opportu-  
6 nities in national or international markets.

7 (F) The viability of local food markets in Oregon.

8 (G) Regional capacity to add value to Oregon commodities.

9 (H) The transfer and succession of agricultural operations or lands to protect and sustain  
10 the agricultural economy.

11 (b) Assess the impacts on the Oregon agricultural sector from changes in the global  
12 market and supply chains after 2020, considering:

13 (A) Whether Oregon should increase produce as a component of the overall agricultural  
14 sector in this state.

15 (B) The costs of agricultural inputs, including fuels, fertilizers, other chemical inputs and  
16 energy.

17 (c) Assess the impacts on the Oregon agricultural sector from foreign investment in  
18 Oregon agricultural land.

19 (3) In completing the analysis, the department shall seek and consider input from  
20 stakeholders representing the diversity of Oregon's agricultural sector, including but not  
21 limited to Indian tribes, various types and sizes of agricultural operations, farmworkers,  
22 experts from universities and others with relevant agricultural experience.

23 (4) The report must include recommendations that may form the basis of a new or re-  
24 vised strategic road map aimed at ensuring the competitiveness of Oregon agriculture, based  
25 on the results of the analysis.

26 (5) The department may contract for completion of the analysis and the report.

27 (6) All agencies of state government, as defined in ORS 174.111, are directed to assist the  
28 department, as requested by the department, in the performance of the duties described in  
29 this section.

30 SECTION 2. Section 1 of this 2023 Act is repealed on December 31, 2024.

31 SECTION 3. This 2023 Act takes effect on the 91st day after the date on which the 2023  
32 regular session of the Eighty-second Legislative Assembly adjourns sine die.

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