

HB 4049 -2 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

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

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Sub-Referral To: Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Meeting Dates: 2/8, 2/13

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure appropriates \$500,000 from the General Fund for distribution to Oregon State University (OSU) and requires the OSU Extension Service and the OSU College of Agricultural Sciences in collaboration with the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality and Oregon wastewater service providers to study the fate and transport of perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl found in biosolids applied to agricultural fields and to report findings to agriculture-related interim committees of Legislative Assembly by September 15, 2025.

FISCAL: May have fiscal impact, but no statement yet issued

REVENUE: May have revenue impact, but no statement yet issued

Detailed Summary

Requires the Oregon State University (OSU) Extension Service and the OSU College of Agricultural Sciences (CAS) to study the fate and transport of perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl (PFAS) found in biosolids applied to agricultural fields. Requires the OSU Extension Service and CAS to collaborate with the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality and Oregon wastewater service providers to identify PFAS concentrations in biosolids produced by selected wastewater treatment facilities; compare them to PFAS concentrations in selected agricultural fields where biosolids have been added to the soil; examine the potential for PFAS to leach into ground water; and to examine PFAS uptake in various crops in Oregon. Directs the OSU Extension Service and CAS to report findings to agriculture-related interim committees of Legislative Assembly by December 15, 2025. Appropriates \$500,000 from the General Fund to OSU. Sunsets January 2, 2026. Declares an emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-2 The amendment modifies certain study and reporting requirements, limits the study to biosolids applied to agricultural fields that do not produce crops intended for human consumption, and specifies that study participation by wastewater treatment service providers, farmers, landowners, and land managers is voluntary. It directs the OSU Extension Service and CAS to, to the greatest extent possible, collect and report data in a fashion that does not disclose precise study locations and participant identities. The amendment changes the appropriation to \$740,000 and moves the sunset to January 2, 2028.

Detailed Summary

Requires the study to be **statewide** and limits it to biosolids applied to agricultural fields **that do not produce crops intended for human consumption**.

Removes the following study requirements:

- Comparing PFAS concentrations in selected agricultural fields where biosolids have been added to the soil.
- Examining the potential for PFAS to leach into ground water.
- Examining PFAS uptake in various crops in Oregon.

Adds the following study requirements:

- Identifying and quantifying PFAS concentrations in the soil profiles of selected adjacent fields, one of which with and one of which without a history of biosolid application.
- Utilizing results to determine the quantities of PFAS retained within and leached from soil profiles.
- Identifying and quantifying PFAS concentrations in the crops analyzed in this study.

Directs the study to **quantify all required results**. Specifies **study participation to be voluntary** by wastewater treatment service providers, farmers, landowners, and land managers. Requires the OSU Extension Service and CAS to, where possible, use **data collection methods that do not disclose precise study locations and participant identities**, and requires **all identifying data to be reported in a summarized or aggregated fashion** that does not disclose the location or ownership of studied agricultural fields or wastewater treatment facilities. **Changes the reporting requirement** to a progress report and a final report to be presented to agriculture-related interim committees of Legislative Assembly by December 15, 2025, and September 1, 2027 respectively. Requires the final report to include PFAS concentrations in biosolids, background and biosolid-amended soil horizons, as well as in crops grown on biosolid-amended soils, and comparisons to published literature for context and interpretation. **Changes the appropriation** from \$500,000 to \$740,000 **and moves the sunset** to January 2, 2028.

FISCAL: May have fiscal impact, but no statement yet issued

REVENUE: May have revenue impact, but no statement yet issued

BACKGROUND:

Perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl (PFAS) are human made, have been used in a variety of industrial processes and consumer products since the 1940s, and can, among other places, be found in fertilizers derived from biosolids. PFAS are also referred to as "forever-chemicals" as some of their components break down very slowly over time. Current scientific research suggests that exposure to high levels of certain PFAS may lead to adverse health outcomes. However, research is still ongoing to determine how different levels of exposure to different PFAS can lead to a variety of health effects. A 2013-2015 analysis of major public drinking water systems found no detection of PFAS in Oregon's public drinking water systems.