



Legislative Fiscal Office
 82nd Oregon Legislative Assembly
 2024 Regular Session

Prepared by: Twais Broadus
 Reviewed by: April McDonald, Kim To
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Bill Title: Relating to a study of PFAS in biosolids applied to land; declaring an emergency.

Government Unit(s) Affected: Department of Environmental Quality, Higher Education Coordinating Commission

Summary of Fiscal Impact

| 2023-25 Biennium | General Fund | Lottery Funds | Other Funds | Federal Funds | Total Funds | Positions | FTE |
|--|-------------------|---------------|-------------|---------------|-------------------|-----------|-----|
| Higher Education Coordinating Commission | \$ 740,000 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 740,000 | - | - |
| Total Fiscal Impact | \$ 740,000 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 740,000 | - | - |

| 2025-27 Biennium | General Fund | Lottery Funds | Other Funds | Federal Funds | Total Funds | Positions | FTE |
|--|---------------------|---------------|-------------|---------------|---------------------|-----------|-----|
| Higher Education Coordinating Commission | \$ 2,280,000 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 2,280,000 | - | - |
| Total Fiscal Impact | \$ 2,280,000 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 2,280,000 | - | - |

Measure Description

The measure appropriates \$740,000 to the Higher Education Coordinating Commission for distribution to Oregon State University (OSU). The measure directs OSU Extension Service and the College of Agricultural Sciences to study the distribution of perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) present in biosolids applied to agricultural fields that do not produce crops intended for human consumption. The university will collaborate with the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and wastewater service providers to identify and quantify PFAS concentrations in selected biosolids from wastewater treatment facilities in the state, as well as in the soil profiles of selected agricultural fields that do not produce crops intended for human consumption. Participation in the study by wastewater treatment service providers, farmers, landowners, or land managers is voluntary.

OSU shall submit to the interim committees of the Legislative Assembly related to agriculture a progress report on the study conducted under this measure, no later than December 15, 2025. A final report on the study conducted under this measure shall be submitted to the interim committees of the Legislative Assembly related to agriculture, no later than September 1, 2027.

Fiscal Analysis

Higher Education Coordinating Commission, Oregon State University

The measure includes a one-time appropriation of \$740,000 General Fund for distribution to OSU for the 2023-25 biennium. OSU anticipates that \$343,996 of the funding will support faculty members conducting data analysis and research, research assistants responsible for sample collection and processing, a postdoctoral

researcher, and a student worker aiding in field sampling and preparation. Additionally, \$302,857 is allocated for equipment, supplies, travel, and shipping, while \$93,147 is designated for project administration.

Staffing, equipment, supplies, travel, shipping, and administration costs in the 2025-27 biennium are estimated to total \$2,280,000 General Fund.

Department of Environmental Quality

DEQ staff will be required to assist in the study development, sample collection, and coordination of wastewater facilities. The scope of work is to be completed by existing staff assigned to the Water Quality Permitting Program with minimal fiscal impact to agency operations.

Relevant Dates

The measure declares an emergency and takes effect on passage.

The provisions surrounding the statewide study and reporting requirements are repealed on January 2, 2028.