



Legislative Fiscal Office  
 83<sup>rd</sup> Oregon Legislative Assembly  
 2025 Regular Session

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**Bill Title:** Relating to labor standards for agricultural workers; declaring an emergency.

**Government Unit(s) Affected:** Higher Education Coordinating Commission, Legislative Policy and Research Office, Employment Department, Department of Consumer and Business Services, Department of Agriculture, Bureau of Labor and Industries

**Summary of Fiscal Impact**

2025-27 Biennium	General Fund	Lottery Funds	Other Funds	Federal Funds	Total Funds	Positions	FTE
Higher Education Coordinating Commission	\$ 666,791	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 666,791	-	-
<b>Total Fiscal Impact</b>	<b>\$ 666,791</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 666,791</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>

  

2027-29 Biennium	General Fund	Lottery Funds	Other Funds	Federal Funds	Total Funds	Positions	FTE
Higher Education Coordinating Commission	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	-	-
<b>Total Fiscal Impact</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>

**Measure Description**

The measure directs the Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) to distribute funds appropriated by the measure to the Center for Public Service at Portland State University to conduct a study of labor standards in Oregon’s agricultural industry with a focus on the health and safety risks and working conditions of farmworkers. The center shall hold in-person interviews and focus groups and conduct a confidential survey of farmers regarding the workplace benefits provided to farmworkers. To the greatest extent practicable, the center shall protect the confidentiality of identities of individual farmers and farmworkers. HECC shall submit three reports on the findings of the study to interim legislative committees related to agriculture, business and labor, and natural resources.

The measure directs the Legislative Policy and Research Office (LPRO) to conduct a study assessing labor standards in Oregon’s agricultural industry with a focus on the rights and protections of farmworkers. LPRO shall submit a report to interim legislative committees related to agriculture, business and labor, and natural resources. The report must include the findings of the study and identify any limitation encountered in accessing or collecting data.

The measure appropriates an unspecified amount of General Fund to HECC in the 2025-27 biennium for distribution to the Center for Public Service at Portland State University (PSU) and Oregon State University (OSU). The measure also appropriates an unspecified amount of General Fund to LPRO in the 2025-27 biennium to conduct the study of labor standards in Oregon’s agricultural industry.

**Fiscal Analysis**

The fiscal impact of the measure is \$666,791 General Fund in the 2025-27 biennium. There is no anticipated fiscal impact in the 2027-29 biennium.

Higher Education Coordinating Commission

The fiscal impact to HECC is \$666,791 General Fund in the 2025-27 biennium. HECC will distribute this pass-through funding to PSU and OSU to support the study. To conduct the study, PSU will require \$367,007 General Fund to engage three existing faculty members to provide oversight, guidance, and subject matter expertise. Additionally, PSU will hire three new staff members to serve a senior research assistant, program manager and an administrative support specialist. Three graduate assistants will also be hired to assist with the development of surveys and scripts for interviews and focus groups as well as assist with data collection and facilitation. PSU will require \$143,694 General Fund for services and supplies, including but not limited to, operating materials and travel expenses. To recruit study participants, PSU will contract with 20 community-based organizations with connections to the farmworker community. An additional \$106,090 General Fund will be needed to provide incentives for survey, interview and focus group participants. In addition, Oregon State University will require \$50,000 for staffing and travel costs.

HECC will not require any additional resources to submit the required reports to the Legislature.

Legislative Policy and Research Office

LPRO assumes a minimal fiscal impact with existing staff to conduct the study assessing labor standards in Oregon's agricultural industry and to submit the report to the Legislature. Although LPRO's current service level budget supports this work, if the work required by this study, or if the cumulative enactment of other legislation imposing new responsibilities on LPRO, exceeds expenditure levels beyond those assumed in the 2025-27 budget, then additional General Fund resources may be required.

Other Entities

The measure is anticipated to have a minimal fiscal impact on the Department of Consumer and Business Services, Oregon Employment Department, Oregon Department of Agriculture, and Bureau of Labor and Industries.

**Relevant Dates**

The measure declares an emergency and takes effect on passage.

Sections 1 and 2 of the measure, which include reporting requirements for HECC and LPRO respectively, sunset on January 2, 2027.

HECC is required to submit an initial report to the Legislature by May 1, 2026, an updated report by September 1, 2026, and a final report by December 1, 2026.

LPRO is required to submit a report to the Legislature by September 15, 2026.