

SB 576 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Natural Resources and Wildfire

Action Date: 03/20/25

Action: Do pass and refer to Ways and Means by prior reference.

Vote: 5-0-0-0

Yeas: 5 - Girod, Golden, Nash, Prozanski, Taylor

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: No revenue impact

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Meeting Dates: 3/18, 3/20

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure appropriates \$2,000,000 to the Department of Agriculture for the purpose of eradicating Japanese beetle grubs. An emergency is declared to exist and the act takes effect on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Sudden oak death treatments
- Invasive species and weeds funding
- Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) Japanese Beetle Grub treatment in Multnomah and Clackamas counties
- Eradication as opposed to reduced population
- Cost of treatments
- ODA's Insect Pest Prevention & Management treatments of invasive species since 2017

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

The Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) describes the Japanese beetle (*Popillia japonica*) as a harmful invasive insect that poses a significant threat to Oregon and other western states. These beetles are destructive at various stages of life and can damage over 300 types of plants, often leading to increased pesticide use to protect crops and gardens.

Every summer, ODA's Pest Prevention and Management (IPPM) Program conducts surveys to monitor pests like Spongy Moths, Flighted Spongy Moths, Emerald Ash Borers, and Japanese Beetles. Early detection helps the IPPM team manage these pests before they cause widespread damage. To prevent plant destruction and the spread of invasive species, ODA is working on a multi-year project to eliminate Japanese beetles before they become established in Oregon. The eighth year of beetle treatments will begin in April 2025.