

House Bill 2689

Sponsored by Representative ELMER (at the request of Mike Freese for Food Northwest) (Pre-session filed.)

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 **as introduced**. The statement includes a measure digest written in compliance with applicable readability standards.

Digest: The Act tells an agency to create a program for promoting the purchase of Oregon food sector products by persons in other states. The Act tells the agency to study topics related to the Oregon food sector. The Act gives money for the program and the study. (Flesch Readability Score: 63.1).

Directs the State Department of Agriculture to establish a program to promote the purchase of Oregon-made food and beverage products by persons in other states.

Directs the department to study the competitiveness of food and beverage processing businesses in Oregon. Directs the department to report to committees or interim committees of the Legislative Assembly related to natural resources no later than September 15, 2026.

Appropriates money to the department out of the General Fund for the program and the study.

Declares an emergency, effective on passage.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1
2 Relating to the competitiveness of the Oregon food sector; and declaring an emergency.

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

4 **SECTION 1. The State Department of Agriculture shall establish and implement a do-**
5 **estic trade promotion program to promote the purchase of Oregon-made food and beverage**
6 **products by persons in other states.**

7 **SECTION 2. (1) In partnership with one or more organizations that are exempt from**
8 **federal income tax under 26 U.S.C. 501 (c)(6), the State Department of Agriculture shall study**
9 **the competitiveness of food and beverage processing businesses in Oregon.**

10 **(2) The study must quantify:**

11 **(a) Limitations on business growth that are related to labor availability;**

12 **(b) The talent and labor needs of food and beverage processing businesses that are pur-**
13 **suing greater automation to improve employee wages and working conditions;**

14 **(c) Access to affordable energy that:**

15 **(A) Does not cost more than the median price for natural gas and electricity; and**

16 **(B) Can support business growth;**

17 **(d) Access to affordable capital;**

18 **(e) Any imbalance between demand for and the supply of debt and equity capital for food**
19 **and beverage processing businesses;**

20 **(f) Access to the capacity to comanufacture;**

21 **(g) Current capabilities for comanufacturing;**

22 **(h) Any need for state funding to support comanufacturing; and**

23 **(i) Access to technical assistance.**

24 **(3) The department shall:**

25 **(a) Submit a report on the study in the manner provided by ORS 192.245 to the commit-**

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 **tees or interim committees of the Legislative Assembly related to natural resources no later**
2 **than September 15, 2026; and**

3 **(b) Include recommendations in the report on how to:**

4 **(A) Ensure that food and beverage processing businesses can remain competitive in**
5 **Oregon, with access to affordable energy and capital;**

6 **(B) Reduce regulatory barriers for food and beverage processing in Oregon; and**

7 **(C) Expand market opportunities for food and beverage products made in Oregon.**

8 **SECTION 3. Section 2 of this 2025 Act is repealed on January 2, 2027.**

9 **SECTION 4. In addition to and not in lieu of any other appropriation, there is appropri-**
10 **ated to the State Department of Agriculture, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2025, out**
11 **of the General Fund, the amount of \$3,000,000, for the purpose of carrying out the provisions**
12 **of section 1 of this 2025 Act.**

13 **SECTION 5. In addition to and not in lieu of any other appropriation, there is appropri-**
14 **ated to the State Department of Agriculture, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2025, out**
15 **of the General Fund, the amount of \$750,000, for the purpose of carrying out the provisions**
16 **of section 2 of this 2025 Act.**

17 **SECTION 6. This 2025 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public**
18 **peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2025 Act takes effect**
19 **on its passage.**

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