

**B-Engrossed**  
**Senate Bill 1019**

Ordered by the Senate June 3  
Including Senate Amendments dated April 16 and June 3

Sponsored by Senator NASH

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

Digest: The Act increases the maximum fees related to brands on livestock. The Act says that an agency may contract with others to perform brand inspections, and allows the agency to create a program for livestock owners to self-inspect their branded livestock. The Act directs LPRO to conduct a study about brands. The Act takes effect when it is signed. (Flesch Readability Score: 61.3).

Increases the maximum fee for activating a brand.

Increases the maximum brand inspection fee on cattle for which a brand inspection certificate is valid for eight days.

Authorizes the State Department of Agriculture to contract with qualified persons to perform brand inspection services. Authorizes the department to establish a self-inspection program that permits livestock owners to conduct brand inspections of their livestock.

Directs the Legislative Policy and Research Director to evaluate the state brand inspection program and compare Oregon's program with the brand inspection programs of other states.

Declares an emergency, effective on passage.

**A BILL FOR AN ACT**

1  
2 Relating to brands; creating new provisions; amending ORS 604.027 and 604.066; and declaring an  
3 emergency.

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

5 **SECTION 1.** ORS 604.027 is amended to read:

6 604.027. (1) A person desiring to record a brand on any species of livestock shall submit a  
7 written and signed application therefor to the State Department of Agriculture, setting forth a fac-  
8 simile and description of the brand, the species of livestock upon which it will be used and the  
9 specific intended location on the animal. The application must be accompanied by a brand  
10 [*recording*] **conflict research** fee of \$25 for each brand on each species of livestock on which the  
11 brand is to be used. The person must also pay an activation fee matching the cycle set for the ap-  
12 proved brand under subsection (4) of this section prior to recordation of the brand. The activation  
13 fee may not exceed [*\$100*] **\$200**. Upon receipt of an application and the required fees, if the depart-  
14 ment determines that the brand applied for is available, the department shall issue a certificate of  
15 recordation of the distinctive brand, the approved location on the animal and the species of livestock  
16 to which it applies.

17 (2) During September of each year the department shall attempt to notify all holders of an ex-  
18 piring recorded brand of the need to renew the brand. The department shall attempt the notification  
19 by sending a renewal notice to the holder's last address as shown on the department's records. The  
20 holder of a recorded brand may renew the brand by submitting to the department a brand renewal  
21 fee for each brand on each species of livestock on which the brand is to be used. The brand renewal

**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 fee may not exceed [~~\$100~~] **\$200**. However, if the species of livestock is sheep, the fee may not exceed  
2 \$50.

3 (3) A recorded brand expires if the department does not receive the brand renewal fee by Jan-  
4 uary 4 next following the attempt to notify the brand holder of the need to renew the brand. Within  
5 60 days after a brand expires, the department shall give written notice of the expiration by mail  
6 addressed to the person who held the expired brand at the last address shown on the department's  
7 records. The fee to activate an expired brand is equal to the brand [*recording*] **conflict research** fee  
8 plus a renewal fee. If the person fails to activate the expired brand within one year after expiration  
9 of the brand, the brand is considered abandoned and any person may apply for recordation and use  
10 of that brand.

11 (4) When issuing or renewing a brand recordation, the department shall adjust certificate expi-  
12 ration dates as necessary to ensure that an approximately equal number of brand [*recordation*]  
13 **recordations** expire in each year of a four-year cycle. The department shall prorate a brand renewal  
14 fee to reflect an adjustment of a certificate expiration date.

15 (5) **Except as otherwise provided in this section**, the department shall establish the amount  
16 of brand activation fees and brand renewal fees by rule.

17 **SECTION 2.** ORS 604.066 is amended to read:

18 604.066. (1) Except as provided in subsection (2) of this section, the State Department of Agri-  
19 culture shall charge and collect a brand inspection fee in accordance with the following:

20 (a) \$30 for a lifetime brand inspection for Equidae;

21 (b) \$10 per head for a brand inspection for Equidae, if the brand inspection certificate utilized  
22 is valid for more than eight days but less than a lifetime; or

23 (c) \$10 per head for a brand inspection on livestock other than Equidae, if the brand inspection  
24 certificate utilized is valid for more than eight days.

25 (2) In accordance with the provisions of ORS chapter 183 **and except as otherwise provided**  
26 **in this subsection**, the department shall establish a brand inspection fee on cattle and cattle hides  
27 for which a brand inspection certificate is valid for eight days. The fee shall be [*not less than \$1*  
28 *and not more than \$1.35*] **\$1.75** per head of cattle and not more than \$2 per hide.

29 (3) Except as provided in this subsection or subsection (4) of this section, the person requesting  
30 or requiring brand inspection to be performed shall pay the State Department of Agriculture a brand  
31 inspection fee and the assessments authorized under ORS 577.512. Livestock auction markets,  
32 slaughterhouses and custom slaughtering establishments at which brand inspection is performed  
33 shall collect the fees and assessments and forward them to the department. The person requesting  
34 or requiring brand inspection for cattle delivered to a livestock auction market is not required to  
35 pay a brand inspection fee on cattle whose value is \$10 or less. The person requesting or requiring  
36 brand inspection is not required to pay a brand inspection fee on cattle not more than 90 days of  
37 age that are to be transported with their mothers to a range or pastureland outside of this state.

38 (4) The person requesting or requiring brand inspection is not required to pay a brand in-  
39 spection fee or pay assessments when Oregon cattle are being transported from any place in this  
40 state to any place outside of this state and then returned to this state, if the movement is continuous  
41 without unloading enroute, is done in the usual course of ranch operations and is not related to a  
42 change of ownership.

43 (5) Except as provided in ORS 577.512, the department shall deposit all fees paid to it under this  
44 chapter in the State Treasury to the credit of the Department of Agriculture Service Fund, and such  
45 fees are continuously appropriated to the department for administering and enforcing this chapter.

1 The provisions of ORS 561.144 apply to such fees.

2 **SECTION 3.** The amendments to ORS 604.027 and 604.066 by sections 1 and 2 of this 2025  
3 Act become operative on August 1, 2025.

4 **SECTION 4.** (1) Notwithstanding any other provision of ORS chapter 599 or 604, the State  
5 Department of Agriculture may enter into a contract with a qualified person to perform  
6 brand inspection services on behalf of the department.

7 (2) Without limiting other terms of a contract described in this section, a person per-  
8 forming brand inspection services on behalf of the department must:

9 (a) Comply with the standards, procedures and requirements established by the depart-  
10 ment in rule, in the contract or in both rule and contract; and

11 (b) Pay the department fees at levels sufficient for the department to fully recover the  
12 costs incurred by the department for developing, administering and enforcing a contract de-  
13 scribed in this section.

14 (3) The department may adopt rules to implement this section.

15 **SECTION 5.** (1) Notwithstanding any other provision of ORS chapter 604, the State De-  
16 partment of Agriculture may establish a self-inspection program that allows an owner to  
17 conduct brand inspections on the owner's livestock, subject to the requirements of this sec-  
18 tion.

19 (2) A person is eligible to participate in the self-inspection program if:

20 (a) The person is the sole owner of the livestock and holds a brand registered with the  
21 department under ORS 604.027;

22 (b) The self-inspection applies only to livestock transactions or movements involving 25  
23 or fewer head per event within a 24-hour period; and

24 (c) The owner complies with all rules adopted by the department for participation in the  
25 program.

26 (3) The department may revoke, suspend or deny self-inspection privileges if the owner  
27 engages in gross negligence, willful misconduct or repeated violations of this section or any  
28 rule adopted under this section. A person whose self-inspection privileges are revoked, sus-  
29 pended or denied under this subsection may submit a written request for reconsideration to  
30 the department within a period established by the department by rule.

31 (4) The department shall establish fees for participation in the self-inspection program  
32 in amounts sufficient for the department to recover the department's administrative,  
33 enforcement and oversight costs.

34 (5) The department may adopt rules to implement this section.

35 **SECTION 6.** (1) Sections 4 and 5 of this 2025 Act become operative on January 1, 2026.

36 (2) The State Department of Agriculture may adopt rules to implement sections 4 and 5  
37 of this 2025 Act before the operative date specified in subsection (1) of this section.

38 **SECTION 7.** (1) The Legislative Policy and Research Director shall conduct a study on  
39 the brand inspection program of the State Department of Agriculture to evaluate the pro-  
40 gram structure, funding mechanisms and effectiveness in meeting statutory requirements.  
41 The director shall include in the study a comparative analysis of how other states administer  
42 brand inspection programs.

43 (2) The director shall prepare a report summarizing the findings of the study. The report  
44 shall be submitted to the interim committees of the Legislative Assembly related to agri-  
45 culture and natural resources no later than December 31, 2025.

1        **SECTION 8. This 2025 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public**  
2        **peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2025 Act takes effect**  
3        **on its passage.**

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