

SB 1539 -1, -2 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Natural Resources and Wildfire

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Meeting Dates: 2/3, 2/12

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure authorizes individuals without a veterinary medicine license to practice cattle pregnancy verification services provided they have specific education to do so. It also grants the Oregon Department of Agriculture to specify circumstances under which unlicensed individuals may practice cattle pregnancy verification.

Fiscal impact: Minimal fiscal impact

Revenue impact: No revenue impact

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Shortage of large animal veterinarians in Oregon
- Disease identification via cattle pregnancy checks
- Types of training to perform pregnancy verification services on cattle
- Regulatory authority of the Oregon Department of Agriculture and the Oregon Veterinary Medical Examination Board (OSVMEB)
- -1 amendment

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-1 amendment transfers rulemaking authority from the Oregon Department of Agriculture to the Oregon State Veterinary Medical Examining Board (OSVMEB), authorizing OSVMEB to specify by rule the circumstances under which unlicensed individuals may perform cattle pregnancy verification.

-2 amendment keeps the changes in the -1 and authorizes OSVMEB to allow certain unlicensed individuals to perform cattle pregnancy verification until January 1, 2031.

BACKGROUND:

Oregon Revised Statutes 686.020 and 686.040 authorize the following individuals to practice veterinary medicine:

- Licensed veterinary professionals in medicine, surgery, or dentistry.
- Authorized representatives of the Department of Agriculture.
- Unlicensed representatives of livestock, cow-testing, or poultry associations who collect blood samples for disease testing, with Department of Agriculture authorization.
- Individuals permitted by the Department of Fish and Wildlife to rehabilitate wildlife.
- Students, agents, or employees of educational or research institutions involved in relevant activities.

These statutes do not currently authorize individuals with training, degrees or certificates in veterinary medicine who do not hold a veterinary license to practice cattle pregnancy determination.