

**Seventy-Eighth Oregon Legislative Assembly - 2015 Regular Session**  
**STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**  
**House Committee On Agriculture and Natural Resources**

**MEASURE: HB 2443**

**Fiscal:** Fiscal impact issued

**Revenue:** No Revenue Impact

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**Action Date:** 03/19/15

**Action:** Do Pass. Refer To Ways And Means.

**Meeting Dates:** 03/03, 03/19

**Vote:**

Yeas: 9 - Barreto, Esquivel, Frederick, Gorsek, Krieger, McKeown, McLain, Whitsett, Witt

**Prepared By:** Chuck Gallagher, Committee Administrator

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

Increases registration and tonnage fees for distribution, labeling and registration of various soil enhancing products. Increases product evaluation fee for soil enhancing products. Revises descriptions of soil enhancing products and updates statutory language consistent with national model.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Industry support for soil enhancement product analysis and fees
- Industry support for research grants related to fertilizer and water issues
- Increasing complexity of products and concurrent increasing cost of analysis
- Evaluation fees of \$50 not covering per-product lab costs of up to \$500 per product review
- Importance of assessing interaction of fertilizer, agricultural amendment/mineral products and water
- Ground water protection through fertilizer management

**EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:**

No amendment.

**BACKGROUND:**

All fertilizer products marketed or distributed in Oregon are required to be registered with the Oregon Department of Agriculture. A portion of the fees collected for the fertilizer program may be used to “fund grants for research and development related to the interaction of fertilizer, agricultural amendment or agricultural mineral products and ground water or surface water.” Fertilizer registration and tonnage fees are currently at the statutory cap. State law also authorizes a product evaluation fee that may not exceed \$50. As new fertilizer products are introduced featuring new additives and biological materials formulated to enhance performance, the cost of analyzing some of these new materials is estimated to range up to \$500 per product evaluation.

House Bill 2443 would increase registration and tonnage fees to increase funding for grants and research and development. The bill would also increase the product evaluation fee to cover laboratory product evaluation costs. Additionally, the bill amends Oregon law to update terms to be consistent with recommendations of the Association of American Plant Food Control Officials; removes terms and products no longer in commerce; and includes new products that need to be described.