Seventy-Eighth Oregon Legislative Assembly - 2015 Regular Session **MEASURE: SB 920 A**

STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Health Care

Fiscal:	Fiscal impact issued
Revenue:	No Revenue Impact
Action Date:	04/20/15
Action:	Do Pass With Amendments And Requesting Referral To Rules. (Printed A-Engrossed.)
Meeting Dates:	04/06, 04/20
Vote:	
	Yeas: 3 - Monnes Anderson, Shields, Steiner Hayward
	Nays: 2 - Knopp, Kruse
Prepared By:	Zena Rockowitz, Committee Administrator

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Declares findings on antibiotic resistance and industrial farms. Prohibits livestock producer from providing medically important antibiotics to food-producing animals for nontherapeutic purposes, unless: risk of disease or infection is significant, administration is necessary to prevent disease or infection and it's provided for shortest duration necessary and to smallest number of food producing animals to prevent disease and infection. Requires livestock producer that operates concentrated animal feeding operation to file annual report if any medically important antibiotics were provided to food-producing animals. Specifies contents of report. Requires that medically important antibiotics must be reported as disease prevention, control or treatment. Directs Oregon Health Authority (OHA) to adopt rules. Requires OHA to consult with Oregon Department of Agriculture. Creates effective date of January 1, 2016. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Federal Drug Administration's definitions, guidance and action
- Risk of lawsuits to farmers
- Antibiotic resistance due to overuse
- Cost to the health care sector
- Threats to humans and environmental health

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:

Removes ability to take action in Circuit Court.

BACKGROUND:

Antibiotics are drugs that fight infections caused by bacteria in order to reduce illness and death. However, the overuse of antibiotics creates what is known as antibiotic resistance, impairing or eliminating the effectiveness of drugs to treat infection. Specifically, when an antibiotic is used, bacteria that can resist antibiotics have a greater chance of survival and can mutate and acquire resistance from other bacterium. While some resistance occurs naturally without human intervention, the current higher levels of antibiotic-resistant bacteria are attributed to humans. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the World Health Organization report that this causes a public health threat, as almost every type of bacteria has become stronger and less responsive to antibiotic treatment. Presently, in the United States, at least two million people each year become infected with bacteria that are resistant to antibiotics and at least 23,000 people die each year as a direct result of these infections. Up to 70 percent of antibiotics sold in the United States are given to food-producing animals, often for non-medical purposes such as promoting faster growth. When antibiotic-resistant bacteria develop in livestock facilities, it can reach the human population by food and through contact with the air, soil, water and animals.