

STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: No Revenue Impact

Action Date: 05/29/15

Action: Do Pass.

Meeting Dates: 05/29

Vote:

Senate

Yeas: 11 - Burdick, Devlin, Girod, Johnson, Monroe, Roblan, Shields, Steiner Hayward, Thomsen, Whitsett, Winters

Exc: 1 - Hansell

House

Yeas: 11 - Buckley, Gomberg, Huffman, Komp, McLane, Nathanson, Rayfield, Smith, Whisnant, Whitsett, Williamson

Exc: 1 - Read

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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 research funding
- Complexity of some new product evaluations
- Increases 2015-17 revenues for fully Other Fund supported programs

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 Fertilizer Registration fee was last increased in 2001. 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.