

HB 2729 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Agriculture and Land Use

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Sub-Referral To: Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Meeting Dates: 2/12

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Appropriates \$738,652 from the General Fund to the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) for the purposes of hiring personnel and contracting for services to carry out the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program. Appropriates \$9,250,000 from the General Fund to OWEB to be deposited in the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Fund for program grants. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

REVENUE: May have revenue impact, but no statement yet issued

FISCAL: May have fiscal impact, but no statement yet issued

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

The Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program (OAHP) was established by the legislature in 2017 to help Oregon farmers and ranchers plan for succession and maintain agricultural land for future generations. Since passage, the 12-member Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission has been established, has addressed initial implementation logistics, and has completed program rulemaking. The OAHP statutorily provides grants for conservation management plans, working land conservation covenants and easements, technical assistance, and succession planning, however, no funding for program implementation was provided by the legislature in 2017.

House Bill 2729 would appropriate \$9,988,652 from the General Fund to OWEB to hire Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program personnel, to contract for services, and to provide grants to farmers and ranchers.