

## **HB 2900 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**

### **House Committee On Economic Development**

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**Sub-Referral To:** House Committee On Revenue

**Meeting Dates:** 3/25, 4/3

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#### **WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

Extends sunset for property tax exemption on qualified real property machinery and equipment used in food processing. Takes effect 91st day following adjournment sine die.

#### **ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Number of food processors using program
- Confidentiality of company information and use of exemption
- Use of Oregon grown products by processors receiving exemption
- Meeting carbon emission policy goals by updating machinery
- Local weigh-in on property tax exemption

#### **EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:**

No amendment.

#### **BACKGROUND:**

Current Oregon law provides an exemption from property tax for newly acquired machinery or equipment used by a food processing business. The machinery and equipment may be new or used so long as it is newly acquired by the food processor. The tax exemption is for food processors engaged in the business of processing, repacking, freezing, canning, dehydrating, concentrating, or preserving raw or fresh fruit, vegetables, nuts, legumes, or seafood for human consumption before the point of the first sale by the processor. Qualified machinery and equipment is certified by the Oregon Department of Agriculture and is exempt for five years following certification.

This exemption was first enacted by the Legislative Assembly in 2005 and was extended in 2011 and 2013. In the 2005 legislation, the Legislative Assembly found that "food processing activities make significant contributions to the economy of this state and are important in supporting and maintaining a high level of agricultural diversity, upon which consistent economic performance is based. The Legislative Assembly declares that a property tax exemption for qualified real property machinery and equipment encourages continued operation and expansion of the food processing industry in this state." (ORS 307.453) In 2015, House Bill 3125 amended the program to include grains, eggs, bakery products, and dairy products.

According to the 2019-2021 Tax Expenditure Report by the Oregon Department of Revenue, the 2019-2021 estimated revenue loss from the food processing equipment exemption is \$8.8 million with a shift of taxes to other taxpayers totaling \$1.8 million. The report also reports that 27 businesses used the exemption for 122 pieces of equipment in tax year 2017-2018.

House Bill 2900 extends the sunset for the property tax exemption on qualified real property machinery and equipment that is used in food processing to July 1, 2025.