

HB 2444 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Joint Committee On Student Success

Prepared By: Lisa Gezelter, LPRO Analyst

Meeting Dates: 5/7

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Requires Oregon Department of Education (ODE) to coordinate with Future Farmers of America (FFA), as specified, to increase student achievement and improve graduation rates, college preparation, and career placement for students enrolled in secondary agricultural courses. Requires students enrolled in agricultural education programs in grades 9 through 12 to be enrolled in national FFA organization. Requires coordination between ODE and FFA with financial support for leadership and development, host competitive events and conventions for student award programs, and work with the Oregon State Fair to plan FFA participation. Appropriates \$1,430,000 out of the General Fund dollars to ODE. Establishes grant program with certain criteria to be administered by ODE for agricultural programs during summer months. Specifies data collection and reporting requirements. Appropriates \$600,000 General Fund dollars for same. Declares emergency, effective July 1, 2019.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Role of Future Farmers of America (FFA) program in providing leadership skills and engaging students in personal growth through real-world experiences
- History of gender neutrality in program activities

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

The Future Farmers of America (FFA) was founded nationally by a group of young farmers in 1928. It exists in all 50 states, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands with 8,630 chapters. Students in the FFA participate in development opportunities that encourage leadership, professional growth and career success through agricultural education. Prior to 2011, the State of Oregon funded the Oregon chapter of FFA through the Department of Education (ODE).

House Bill 2444-A requires ODE to coordinate with FFA to increase student achievement and improve graduation rates, college preparation, and career placement for students enrolled in secondary agricultural courses: it requires students in grades 9-12 to be enrolled in national FFA if they are enrolled in agricultural education programs; it provides funding for ODE and FFA to coordinate competitive events, conventions, and participation in the Oregon State Fair; and it establishes a grant program for personnel to manage agricultural programs during the summer months. It appropriates \$1,430,000 General Fund dollars for coordination purposes and \$600,000 for the grant program.