

HB 4158 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Agriculture and Land Use

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Meeting Dates: 2/5

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Directs Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) to develop Oregon Hemp Plan for the establishment of the Oregon Hemp State Program for the commercial production and sale of hemp. Requires plan to, at a minimum, certify that ODA has the resources to administer and enforce industrial hemp growers, handlers and processors statute (ORS 571.260 to 571.348) and establish: qualifications for receiving a license to grow or handle hemp; standards for growers and handlers of hemp and procedures for suspending or revoking licenses; procedures for identifying land where hemp is produced; sampling and testing procedures; procedures for disposing of identified marijuana plants; standards and processes for ensuring compliance; and processes for sharing information with state and federal agencies. Requires Hemp Plan and associated rules to be in accordance with federal law. Requires ODA to conduct criminal records check of applicants for licensure related to hemp. Changes term "industrial hemp" to "hemp." Requires Oregon Liquor Control Commission to track commercial cannabis shipments through electronic tracking system. Defines "commercial cannabis shipment." Becomes operative on date on which United States Department of Agriculture approves Oregon Hemp Plan. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Industrial hemp is an agricultural product that is subject to regulation by the Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) and refers to cannabis varieties that are grown for fiber, seed, oil, or as a cover crop. The legislature has passed a series of laws related to industrial hemp over the past decade. In 2009, the Legislative Assembly enacted Senate Bill 676, which authorized the production, possession, and commerce of industrial hemp commodities in Oregon. Oregon's first industrial hemp grower was licensed by ODA in early 2015. In 2016, House Bill 4060 updated and clarified provisions related to the regulation of industrial hemp and authorized ODA to adopt rules to govern quality, packaging, and labeling of industrial hemp seed. In 2017, House Bill 1015 provided for processing and sales of industrial hemp concentrates and extracts. In 2018, House Bill 4089 established the Oregon Industrial Hemp Agricultural Pilot Program, an agricultural hemp seed certificate program, the Industrial Hemp Fund, and further modified industrial hemp statutes related to testing, regulation, personal possession, and tetrahydrocannabinol concentration limits.

House Bill 4158 would direct ODA to develop Oregon Hemp Plan for the establishment of the Oregon Hemp State Program for the commercial production and sale of hemp. The Act requires the Oregon Liquor Control Commission to track commercial cannabis shipments through electronic tracking system.