

HB 2671 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Agriculture and Natural Resources

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Meeting Dates: 1/28

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Directs Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) to issue research license to qualified applicant. Allows licensed researcher to collect samples of industrial hemp crops that exceed tetrahydrocannabinol limit in order to perform studies to better understand and improve industrial hemp crop biochemistry. Allows ODA to refuse to issue or renew a research license or revoke a research license if the applicant or researcher violates any statutory law or department rule related to industrial hemp operations or other agricultural activities. Authorizes ODA to charge research license fees to cover costs of administering the industrial hemp statutes and authorizes rule adoption. Takes effect on 91st day following adjournment sine die.

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:

Industrial hemp is an agricultural product regulated by the Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA). It refers to plant varieties of *Cannabis sativa* that contain a limited amount of tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) that are grown for fiber, seed, oil, or as a cover crop. A series of laws related to industrial hemp have been enacted in Oregon over the past decade as the industry has evolved: Senate Bill 676 (2009) authorized hemp production and possession, and commerce in industrial hemp commodities; House Bill 4060 (2016) updated and clarified regulatory provisions and authorized ODA to adopt rules concerning quality, packaging, and labeling of industrial hemp seed; Senate Bill 1015 (2017) provided for the processing and sale of industrial hemp concentrates and extracts; and House Bill 4089 (2018) established the Oregon Industrial Hemp Agricultural Pilot Program and an agricultural hemp seed certificate program, and further refined statutes governing testing, regulation, personal possession, and limits on THC concentration. ORS 571.341 defined the limit on THC content in industrial hemp products to be no more than 0.3 percent for sale to consumers.

House Bill 2671 would allow the Oregon Department of Agriculture to issue research license that would enable the collection of industrial hemp samples that exceed the tetrahydrocannabinol limit for studies to better understand and improve crop biochemistry.