

SB 34 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Joint Committee On Transportation

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Meeting Dates: 2/2

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Adds aviation jet fuel to the definition of "motor vehicle fuels" for the purposes of subjecting supply facilities to inspection by the Oregon Department of Agriculture.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

The Oregon Weights and Measures Program, administered by the Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA), provides third-party oversight and quality control for both buyers and sellers on a wide range of commercial transactions throughout the state. The program licenses and examines over 55,000 devices at over 11,500 businesses annually through a team of field inspectors, and also investigates complaints and reports of discrepancies.

One of the areas that falls under the umbrella of the Weights and Measures Program is Motor Fuel Quality, which was incorporated into ODA's Weights and Measures when Oregon adopted the American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) national motor fuel standards in 1997. Quality control inspections look for water contamination and measure octane levels. In addition, the program also enforces the state's renewable fuels standard of 10 percent ethanol in gasoline and five percent biodiesel in diesel fuel.

Under current law, while ODA conducts inspections of fuel dispensers and safety checks of storage, aviation jet fuels are exempted from the definition of "motor vehicle fuel" (along with liquefied petroleum and natural gases). Senate Bill 34 removes the aviation jet fuel exemption, which would grant ODA the authority to take compliance actions for aviation jet fuel that is contaminated or out of compliance.