

## **SB 559 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**

### **Senate Committee On Natural Resources and Wildfire Recovery**

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**Meeting Dates:** 2/15

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

Modifies authority for a county to approve equine and equine-affiliated therapeutic and counseling activities to livestock and livestock-affiliated exercise, therapeutic, and counseling activities on land zoned for exclusive farm use under specified conditions.

*No subsequent referral*

*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:**

The exclusive farm use (EFU) zone designation was developed by the legislature in 1961 along with the farm tax assessment program. Farm use is encouraged and protected within the zone while also allowing a variety of farm and non-farm related uses that have increased in type and number over the years. Minimum lot standards and dwelling approval standards limit the conversion of farmland to other uses. About 16 million acres in Oregon are currently zoned for exclusive farm use.

Livestock therapy includes a range of treatments that use livestock as a therapeutic tool. For example, hippotherapy is physical, occupational, or speech and language therapy that uses the movement of a horse to accomplish therapeutic goals. In 2018, the legislature enacted Senate Bill 1533 allowing equine and equine-affiliated therapeutic and counseling activities that meet certain requirements in EFU zones.

Senate Bill 559 would modify the authority for a county to approve equine and equine-affiliated therapeutic and counseling activities to livestock and livestock-affiliated exercise, therapeutic, and counseling activities on EFU land. The activities are subject to local government findings under ORS 215.296 and must be conducted in existing buildings that were lawfully constructed on the property before January 1, 2019 or in new buildings that are accessory, incidental, and subordinate to farm use on the tract; and all individuals conducting activities must be acting within the proper scope of any required state license.