

HB 3278 -1 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Energy and Environment

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Meeting Dates: 3/24, 4/12

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Directs the State Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW), in consultation with the Department of State Lands and the State Parks and Recreation Department, to study the potential for developing commercial seaweed production to produce feed for livestock as a means to reduce methane emissions. Directs ODFW to present the study in a report to an appropriate committee or interim committee of the Legislative Assembly on or before September 15, 2022. Sunsets study and reporting requirements on January 2, 2023.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Authority of Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
- Types of Oregon-grown seaweed
- Benefits of seaweed to livestock and climate

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-1 Directs the **State Department of Agriculture** (the Department), in **partnership with Oregon State University**, to study the potential for developing commercial seaweed production to produce feed for livestock as a means to reduce methane emissions. Directs **the Department** to present the study in a report to an appropriate committee or interim committee of the Legislative Assembly on or before September 15, 2022.

- *FISCAL: Costs related to the measure may require budgetary action; warrants a subsequent referral to the Joint Committee on Ways and Means for consideration of its budgetary impact on the State's General Fund.*
- *REVENUE: No Revenue Impact*

BACKGROUND:

According to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, livestock are responsible for almost 15 percent of global greenhouse gas emissions. Approximately two-fifths of livestock emissions are in the form of methane, a greenhouse gas. One potential method for reducing methane emissions from livestock is to improve the feed they are given.

House Bill 3278 would direct the State Department of Fish and Wildlife, in consultation with the Department of State Lands and the State Parks and Recreation Department, to study and report to the Legislative Assembly the potential for developing commercial seaweed production to produce feed for livestock as a means to reduce methane emissions.