

SB 33 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Natural Resources and Wildfire Recovery

Action Date: 02/24/21

Action: Without recommendation as to passage and be referred to Ways and Means by prior reference.

Vote: 4-1-0-0

Yeas: 4 - Golden, Kennemer, Patterson, Prozanski

Nays: 1 - Heard

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: No revenue impact

Prepared By: Beth Patrino, LPRO Analyst

Meeting Dates: 2/8, 2/24

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Authorizes the Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) to, by rule, increase specified food safety license fee. Limits fee increases to no more than 15 percent of the amount of the fee for fiscal year beginning July 1, 2022 and by no more than 15 percent for fiscal year beginning July 1, 2023, excluding any increase imposed for fiscal year 2022. Specifies that such fee increases are in addition to license fees established under statutes. Declares emergency, effective upon passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Food safety program is funded by both General Fund and Other Funds (currently 25 percent General Funds, 75 percent Other Funds); changed in 2017 from 40 percent GF, 60 percent OFs
- Downward trend in program revenues over time; reserves lowered
- Program purpose is to prevent spread of foodborne illness

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

The mission of the Oregon Department of Agriculture's (ODA) food safety program is to help prevent the spread of foodborne illness. According to ODA, this mission is accomplished through "monitoring Oregon's food industry; enforcing state sanitation laws; inspecting food establishments in Oregon; and working to ensure the consumer gets food that is not contaminated, mislabeled, misrepresented or changed in any way that would impair safety, wholesomeness or purity." ODA issues food safety licenses for a variety of activities related to food manufacturing and processing.

House Bill 33 would authorize ODA to increase certain food safety license fees by rule by no more than 15 percent for the fiscal years beginning July 1, 2022 and July 1, 2023.