

HB 2785 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Agriculture and Natural Resources

Action Date: 03/11/21

Action: Do pass with amendments and be referred to Ways and Means by prior reference.
(Printed A-Eng.)

Vote: 10-0-0-0

Yeas: 10 - Breese-Iverson, Cate, Hudson, Marsh, McLain, Post, Reardon, Smith DB, Williams, Witt

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: No revenue impact

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Meeting Dates: 2/4, 3/11

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Directs Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) to establish by rule a grant program for the purpose of funding: construction of new establishments, upgrades to establishments that are expected to operate under the state meat inspection program, and expansion of establishments that operate under a program of federal inspection and plan to increase processing of meat from animals raised in Oregon. Requires ODA to develop criteria for receiving a grant and applying for a grant and allows ODA to establish reporting requirements for the use of grant funds. For program administration, adds requirement for ODA to preferentially award grants to support establishments that prioritize seasonally feasible processing of meat from animals raised in Oregon. Specifies grant recipients may use grant funds for technical assistance and equipment purchase as part of facility upgrades and construction. Establishes legislative findings. Appropriates \$9.7 million General Fund moneys to ODA for the grant program and \$300,000 to Oregon State University, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2021, to upgrade Clark Meat Science Center facilities and equipment for consistency with inspection requirements. Sunsets grant program on January 2, 2027. Takes effect on 91st day following adjournment sine die.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Standards for food safety
- Scope and scale of the grant program
- Barriers for local meat processors

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

Expands grant program to include funding for construction of new establishments that are expected to operate under the state meat inspection program, and funding for expansion of establishments that operate under a program of federal inspection and plan to increase processing of meat from animals raised in Oregon. For program administration, adds requirement for Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) to preferentially award grants to support establishments that prioritize seasonally feasible processing of meat from animals raised in Oregon. Specifies grant recipients may use grant funds for technical assistance and equipment purchase as part of facility upgrades and construction. Establishes legislative findings. Changes designation of \$10 million General Fund appropriation to ODA for the grant program to \$9.7 million for that purpose, and \$300,000 to Oregon State University, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2021 to upgrade Clark Meat Science Center facilities and equipment for consistency with inspection requirements.

BACKGROUND:

The Wholesome Meat Act of 1967 requires states to have inspection programs “at least equal to” the federal meat inspection program. The Oregon legislature passed House Bill 4206 in the 1st Special Session of 2020 that

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authorizes the Oregon Department of Agriculture to establish a program by rule for state inspection of the processing and sale of meat products from amenable and nonamenable species, except for equine species.

House Bill 2785 A would direct the Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) to establish by rule a grant program for the purpose of funding: construction of new establishments, upgrades to establishments that are expected to operate under the state meat inspection program and expansion of establishments that operate under a program of federal inspection; and require ODA to develop grant program criteria. It would appropriate \$9.7 million General Fund moneys to ODA for the grant program and \$300,000 to Oregon State University to upgrade Clark Meat Science Center facilities and equipment for consistency with inspection requirements.