

HB 2531 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Carrier: Rep. Reardon

House Committee On Agriculture and Natural Resources

Action Date: 03/23/21

Action: Do Pass.

Vote: 10-0-0-0

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

Fiscal: Has minimal fiscal impact

Revenue: No revenue impact

Prepared By: Stuty Maskey, LPRO Analyst

Meeting Dates: 2/2, 3/23

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Adds the Oregon Department of Forestry, Oregon Department of Transportation, and Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife as consulting agencies for the state pollinator health outreach and education plan. Requires Oregon State University (OSU) in consultation with the Oregon Department of Agriculture and specified agencies to confer annually in order to revise the pollinator health outreach and education plan to educate the public regarding best practices for increasing habitat for bees and other pollinating insects in addition to avoiding adverse effects from pesticides on bee and pollinating insect populations. Requires OSU and consulting agencies to conduct an annual meeting to confer regarding the activities each entity undertook to promote pollinator health and to increase pollinator habitat in accordance with the plan, and to review plan revisions.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Pesticide licensing process
- Pesticide application and its effect on pollinators' health
- Oregon Bee Project and its impact on pollinator education and research

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Oregon's insect-pollinated agricultural economy generates approximately \$600 million per year. Pollinator populations have suffered significant losses over recent years due to complex interactions among multiple stressors, including pests, pathogens, and viruses, poor nutrition, pesticide exposure, bee management practices, and a lack of genetic diversity. Oregon State University (OSU) is required, in consultation with the Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA), to develop educational materials regarding best practices for avoiding adverse effects from pesticides on populations of bees and other pollinating insects.

House Bill 2531 adds the Oregon Department of Forestry, Oregon Department of Transportation, and Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife as consulting agencies for the state pollinator health outreach and education plan; requires OSU in consultation with ODA and specified agencies to meet and confer annually in order to revise the plan; and requires that the plan specify best practices for increasing habitat for bees and other pollinating insects in addition to avoiding adverse effects from pesticides on bee and pollinating insect populations.