

FISCAL IMPACT OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION

Measure: HB 3278 A

81st Oregon Legislative Assembly – 2021 Regular Session
Legislative Fiscal Office*Only Impacts on Original or Engrossed
Versions are Considered Official*Prepared by: Tim Walker
Reviewed by: Doug Wilson, John Terpening
Date: 04/13/2021**Measure Description:**

Directs State Department of Fish and Wildlife, in consultation with Department of State Lands and State Parks and Recreation Department, to study potential for developing commercial seaweed production to produce feed for livestock as means to reduce methane emissions.

Government Unit(s) Affected:

Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA), Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC), Public Universities

Summary of Fiscal Impact:

Costs related to the measure may require budgetary action - See analysis.

Summary of Expenditure Impact:

	2021-23 Biennium	2023-25 Biennium
General Fund	\$320,000	
Total Funds	\$320,000	\$0
Positions	0	
FTE	0.00	

Analysis: The measure directs the Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) to partner with Oregon State University (OSU) to study the potential for developing commercial seaweed production to produce feed for livestock to reduce methane emissions. ODA is directed to present the report to the appropriate committee or interim committee of the Legislative Assembly by September 15, 2022.

OSU will require two graduate students, supplies and analysis for \$300,000 for the biennium. These costs do not include faculty research time the project would require. OSU has stated that they do not have the resources to fund this activity. ODA anticipates a General Fund appropriation as a pass through to OSU to cover this expense. There is not appropriation section in the bill. Generally, funds would be appropriated to the Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) and then distributed to OSU. ODA also anticipates \$20,000 General Fund to prepare the report and provide oversight of this study.

This measure warrants a subsequent referral to the Joint Committee on Ways and Means for consideration of its budgetary impact on the State's General Fund.