HB 3278 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Energy and Environment

Action Date:	04/12/21
Action:	Do pass with amendments and be referred to Ways and Means. (Printed A-Eng.)
Vote:	7-0-0-0
Yeas:	7 - Helm, Marsh, Moore-Green, Owens, Pham, Smith DB, Speaker Kotek
Fiscal:	Fiscal impact issued
Revenue:	No revenue impact
Prepared By:	Erin Pischke, LPRO Analyst
Meeting Dates:	3/24, 4/12

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Directs the State Department of Agriculture (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. Sunsets study and reporting requirements on January 2, 2023.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Types of Oregon-grown seaweed
- Benefits of seaweed to livestock and climate

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

Transfers responsibility for the study on seaweed production and the report to the Legislative Assembly from the State Department of Fish and Wildlife, in consultation with the Department of State Lands and the State Parks and Recreation Department, to the State Department of Agriculture, in partnership with Oregon State University.

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. In California, researchers have studied a red seaweed called *asparagopsis armata* and are studying *asparagopsis taxiformis*, which have been shown to reduce methane emissions in cows and beef cattle that were fed the algae as part of their diets.

House Bill 3278 A would direct the State Department of Agriculture, in partnership with Oregon State University, 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.