

Senate Bill 404

Sponsored by Senator PROZANSKI (at the request of Oregon Organic Coalition) (Pre-session filed.)

SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced**.

Instructs Oregon State University Extension Service to establish certain new positions related to organic production and maintain certain existing position related to organic production.

Prohibits Oregon Health Authority from removing, on basis of cost, organic food products from list of foods approved under Women, Infants and Children Program.

Directs Oregon Business Development Department to establish grant program for purpose of facilitating infrastructure to support organic food production.

Directs Oregon Business Development Department to conduct market analysis of Oregon organic market.

Directs State Department of Agriculture to promote Oregon organic agriculture through department's Buy Oregon Agriculture program.

Directs State Department of Agriculture to establish organics program area.

Establishes Organic Action Plan Task Force to study issues related to organic food production. Requires task force to submit biannual reports containing recommendations for legislation to committee or interim committee of Legislative Assembly related to agriculture.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1
2 Relating to organic food production.

3 **Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:**

4 **SECTION 1. (1) The Oregon State University Extension Service shall create new positions**
5 **for:**

6 (a) **An organic forages and pastures specialist.**

7 (b) **An organic fruit and nut trees specialist.**

8 (c) **An organic perennial berries and grapes specialist.**

9 (d) **An organic grains and pulses specialist.**

10 (e) **An organic livestock specialist.**

11 (f) **An organic specialty seeds specialist.**

12 (2) **The service shall maintain a position for an organic vegetable specialist.**

13 **SECTION 2. The Oregon Health Authority may not, on the basis of cost, remove organic**
14 **food products from the list of foods approved under the Women, Infants and Children Pro-**
15 **gram established by ORS 413.500.**

16 **SECTION 3. (1) The Oregon Business Development Department shall establish by rule a**
17 **grant program for the purpose of facilitating infrastructure to support organic food pro-**
18 **duction.**

19 (2) **Projects funded under the grant program may:**

20 (a) **Increase capacity for:**

21 (A) **Processing of organic foods;**

22 (B) **Cleaning of organic seeds;**

23 (C) **Distribution of organic produce;**

24 (D) **Promotion of organic milk;**

NOTE: Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter [*italic and bracketed*] is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 (E) Regionally based distribution of organic foods; or

2 (F) Storage of organic foods.

3 (b) Support organic-oriented business incubators.

4 (3) In administering the program, the department:

5 (a) Shall develop criteria for receiving a grant and a process for applying for a grant; and

6 (b) May require a recipient of a grant to report to the department on the use of the grant
7 funds.

8 (4) The department shall review the grant program on a biennial basis to assess to what
9 extent the purpose described in subsection (1) of this section is being achieved. The depart-
10 ment shall modify the process for awarding grants as necessary to better achieve the pur-
11 pose described in subsection (1) of this section.

12 **SECTION 4.** The Oregon Business Development Department shall conduct a market
13 analysis of the Oregon organic market by collecting and analyzing data to assess opportu-
14 nities for economic growth and trade in the Oregon organic sector.

15 **SECTION 5.** The State Department of Agriculture shall promote Oregon organic agri-
16 culture through the department's Buy Oregon Agriculture program.

17 **SECTION 6.** (1) The State Department of Agriculture shall establish an organics program
18 area that addresses:

19 (a) Soil health;

20 (b) The marketing of organic products; and

21 (c) Threats to organic markets, including but not limited to cross-contamination of veg-
22 etable specialty seeds, pest and disease pressure and pesticide drift.

23 (2) The department shall staff the program with:

24 (a) An organic program area director;

25 (b) An organic market facilitation and trade manager; and

26 (c) An organics specialist who coordinates department activities concerning organic ag-
27 riculture.

28 **SECTION 7.** (1) The Organic Action Plan Task Force is established.

29 (2) The task force consists of nine members appointed by the Director of Agriculture as
30 follows:

31 (a) One member who grows organic crops.

32 (b) One member who produces organic dairy.

33 (c) One member who works on an organic farm.

34 (d) One member who is an organic wholesaler.

35 (e) One member who is an organic processor.

36 (f) One member who is an organic certifier.

37 (g) One member who has scientific training and expertise related to organic food pro-
38 duction.

39 (h) One member who regularly purchases organic foods and has a demonstrated interest
40 in organic food production.

41 (i) One member who retails organic food.

42 (3) The task force shall study issues related to organic food production.

43 (4) A majority of the members of the task force constitutes a quorum for the transaction
44 of business.

45 (5) Official action by the task force requires the approval of a majority of the members

1 of the task force.

2 (6) The task force shall elect one of its members to serve as chairperson.

3 (7) If there is a vacancy for any cause, the director shall make an appointment to become
4 immediately effective.

5 (8) The task force shall meet at times and places specified by the call of the chairperson
6 or of a majority of the members of the task force.

7 (9) The task force may adopt rules necessary for the operation of the task force.

8 (10) Twice a year, on dates determined in advance by the task force, the task force shall
9 submit a report in the manner provided by ORS 192.245, and shall include recommendations
10 for legislation, to a committee or interim committee of the Legislative Assembly related to
11 agriculture.

12 (11) The State Department of Agriculture shall provide staff support to the task force.

13 (12) Members of the task force are not entitled to compensation or reimbursement for
14 expenses and serve as volunteers on the task force.

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