

FISCAL IMPACT OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION

Measure: HB 3123 - 1

82nd Oregon Legislative Assembly – 2023 Regular Session

Legislative Fiscal Office

Only Impacts on Original or Engrossed Versions are Considered Official

Prepared by: Haylee Morse-Miller
Reviewed by: Amanda Beitel, April McDonald, Kim To
Date: March 8, 2023

Measure Description:

Requires Oregon State University Extension Service and College of Agricultural Sciences of Oregon State University to study fate and transport of perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) found in biosolids applied to agricultural fields.

Government Unit(s) Affected:

Cities, Counties, Department of Agriculture, Department of Environmental Quality, Higher Education Coordinating Commission

Summary of Fiscal Impact:

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

Summary of Expenditure Impact:

	2023-25 Biennium	2025-27 Biennium
Higher Education Coordinating Commission		
General Fund		
Special Payments	\$525,000	\$0
Total General Fund	\$525,000	\$0
Total Fiscal Impact	\$525,000	\$0
<i>Total Positions</i>	0	0
<i>Total FTE</i>	0.00	0.00

Analysis:

HB 3123 - 1 directs the College of Agricultural Sciences of Oregon State University (OSU) and the OSU Extension Service to conduct a study the fate and transport of perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) found in biosolids that are applied to agricultural fields in Oregon, in collaboration with the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and Oregon wastewater service providers. The study is to identify PFAS concentrations in biosolids produced by wastewater treatment facilities; compare the wastewater treatment concentrations to PFAS concentrations in agricultural fields where biosolids have been applied as a soil amendment; examine the potential for PFAS to leach into ground water; and examine PFAS uptake in crops from various ecosystems in Oregon. The OSU College of Agricultural Sciences and the Extension Service are to submit a report to the interim committees of the Legislative Assembly related to agriculture by September 15, 2025. The measure appropriates \$525,000 General Fund to the Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) to distribute to OSU to conduct the study. The measure takes effect on the 91st day after the Legislative Assembly adjourns sine die, and sunsets January 2, 2026.

OSU anticipates that from the funding provided by this measure, approximately half (\$240,000) would be used to pay for sampling and testing costs. The remainder of the funding would primarily be used to pay for four people (equivalent to 1.87 FTE) to work on the study. This includes two associate professors, to coordinate the project, analyze sample data, and review reports on samples; one post-doctorate student to collect, process, and compile sample data; and one student to assist with field sampling campaigns. Staffing is not included in the table above

as university staffing is not subject to approval by the Legislative Assembly.

There is no fiscal impact for the Oregon Department of Agriculture, or to HECC for administration of the funds, and minimal fiscal impact for DEQ. No response was received from the League of Oregon Cities. The Association of Oregon Counties indicates an indeterminate impact, based on potential costs for wastewater service providers, and the amount of PFAS encountered in different areas.

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