

SB 789 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Natural Resources

Prepared By: Laura Kentnesse, LPRO Analyst

Meeting Dates: 3/8, 3/22

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Defines 'canola' and the 'Willamette Valley Protected District' (District). Requires a person growing canola in the district to receive prior approval by license from the Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA). Permits ODA to authorize a person to grow canola in the district only in a manner determined to be compatible with the growing of other crops, and to authorize canola production in the district up to 500 acres per year. Authorizes ODA to assess a civil penalty, not to exceed \$5,000, against a person that grows canola in the district without a license or in violation of the terms of their license. Applied retroactively to July 1, 2023. Declares emergency, effective July 1, 2023.

FISCAL: Has minimal fiscal impact

REVENUE: No revenue impact

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

All provisions of this measure are currently law in Oregon, and are set to expire on June 30, 2023.

In 2013, the Legislative Assembly passed House Bill 2427 directing the College of Agricultural Sciences at Oregon State University to study canola and report the results to an interim committee of the Legislative Assembly by November 1, 2017. The measure also prohibited the growing of canola in the Willamette Valley with an exception for 500 acres necessary to conduct the study. In 2015, House Bill 3382 amended that law allowing the Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) to authorize up to 500 acres for the commercial production of canola in the Willamette Valley Protected District (District) with certain restrictions. The measure also extended the sunset prohibiting the growing of canola in the district to January 2, 2020. In 2019, Senate Bill 885 extended the 500-acre authorization to June 30, 2023.

Senate Bill 789 would make permanent specified restrictions on growing canola within the Willamette Valley Protected District, including ODA authority to limit canola production to 500 acres maximum.