

HB 3244 -2 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water

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Meeting Dates: 3/14, 3/28

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Establishes the Task Force on the Economic Competitiveness of Oregon Agriculture (task force). Requires the Director of Agriculture to appoint several experts with agricultural experience reflecting the diversity of Oregon's agricultural sector as task force members. Requires the task force to assess the economic competitiveness of Oregon's agricultural products within the United States domestic market in the context of severe environmental impacts on crop production and associated crop insurance gaps, labor related issues, the regulatory burden on agricultural entities, competitive advantages of agricultural sectors in other states through certain incentive programs and investments, and the viability of local food markets in Oregon. Requires the task force to assess the impact of changes in the global market and associated supply chain issues after 2020 on Oregon's agricultural sector. Specifies task force operational procedures. Requires the task force to submit a report which recommendations may form the basis of a new or revised strategic road map for ensuring the competitiveness of Oregon's agriculture to an agricultural related interim committee of the legislature by September 15, 2024. Sunsets December 31, 2024. Takes effect on 91st day following adjournment sine die.

REVENUE: May have revenue impact, but no statement yet issued

FISCAL: May have fiscal impact, but no statement yet issued

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-2 Replaces the measure. Directs the Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) to conduct or contract an analysis of the economic competitiveness of Oregon's agricultural sector, including the competitiveness of Oregon's agricultural products within the U.S. domestic market, impacts on Oregon's agricultural sector from changes in the global market and supply chains after 2020 and foreign investments in Oregon agricultural land. Requires ODA to seek and consider input from stakeholders representing Oregon's agricultural sector, including Indian tribes, various types and sizes of agricultural operations, farmworkers, and experts. Requires the report to include recommendations aimed at ensuring the competitiveness of Oregon agriculture. Requires all agencies to assist ODA as requested. Requires ODA to submit a report to an agriculture related interim committee of the legislature by September 15, 2024. Sunsets December 31, 2024. Takes effect on 91st day following adjournment sine die.

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Fiscal impact issued

BACKGROUND:

Oregon's agriculture is a \$45 billion industry and approximately 14% of Oregonians, located in all counties, rely on agriculture for their livelihoods. It is estimated that over 250 diverse agricultural products are grown in the state. The COVID-19 global pandemic as well as recent wildfire events affected farmworker populations and the agricultural sector as a whole, but the extent of their effects are not fully quantified.

House Bill 3244 would establish a task force on the Economic Competitiveness of Oregon Agriculture.