

SB 57 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

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

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Meeting Dates: 4/25, 5/9

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Removes the prohibitions against the sale, offer for sale, importation, or breeding of female beef or dairy cattle that have not been vaccinated against brucellosis. Removes female cattle not vaccinated against brucellosis from indemnity and penalty provisions.

FISCAL: Has minimal fiscal impact

REVENUE: No revenue impact

SENATE VOTE: Ayes 28; Nays 0; Excused 2

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Brucellosis is an infectious disease caused by bacteria that mainly infect cattle, swine, goats, sheep, bison, and dogs. In the past, the bacteria spread to humans through consumption of raw or unpasteurized dairy or meat products or through contact with the bacteria in slaughterhouses, meat-packing facilities, and laboratories.

In 1954, Congress initiated a federal-state cooperative brucellosis eradication program, and in 1955, Oregon enacted laws requiring producers to vaccinate cattle against brucellosis. Veterinarians and animal health officials administer the RB51 brucellosis vaccine to produce an immune response that increases an animal's resistance to the disease. Studies report that the vaccine typically protects 60 to 80 percent of vaccinated cattle from infection. Following vaccination, the animal receives a tattoo on the ear to visually signify vaccination.

Oregon eradicated brucellosis approximately 30 years ago. The only current brucellosis threat in the West is through free-range bison and elk infected with the disease in the Greater Yellowstone Area (GYA). A designated control area has been established in the GYA where bison, elk, and cattle populations are closely monitored, and testing and vaccination are required.

Senate Bill 57 A would remove the prohibitions against the sale, offer for sale, importation, or breeding of female beef or dairy cattle that have not been vaccinated against brucellosis.