

SCR 3 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Rules

Prepared By: Melissa Leoni, LPRO Analyst

Meeting Dates: 4/4, 6/20

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Designates potato as official vegetable of Oregon.

FISCAL: No fiscal impact

REVENUE: No revenue impact

Senate Vote: Ayes, 29; Excused, 1--Gorsek

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Reasons for designating potatoes and not other vegetables
- Inclusion of all potato types and varieties grown across Oregon
- How adding an Oregon designation to Idaho's existing designation would result in a regional designation
- Origination of potatoes in the Andes and their importance to Peruvian culture
- Likelihood of eating an Oregon potato
- Community events and celebrations at harvest

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Potatoes are a vital, versatile, nutritious, and easy-to-use food source. They are a cost-effective and child-friendly component of K-12 school meals and can play a key role in minimizing plate waste in schools. Potatoes are grown across Oregon, contributing to the state's health and economic well-being. They represent a crucial piece of Oregon's diverse and unique agricultural sector; they are the state's top-selling vegetable and its seventh most valuable agricultural commodity. Further, Oregon potatoes are exported to international markets, making them a significant component of the state's international trade. Oregon farmers have donated one million pounds of potatoes annually to the Oregon Food Bank.

Senate Current Resolution 3 designates the potato as the official vegetable of Oregon.