

HB 3123 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

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

Action Date: 03/09/23

Action: Do pass with amendments and be referred to Ways and Means. (Printed A-Eng.)

Vote: 9-0-0-0

Yeas: 9 - Boice, Gamba, Hartman, Helm, Levy B, Marsh, McLain, Owens, Scharf

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: No revenue impact

Prepared By: Anna Glueder, LPRO Analyst

Meeting Dates: 2/28, 3/9

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Requires the Oregon State University Extension Service (OSU extension) and the Oregon State University College of Agricultural Sciences (CAS) to study the fate and transport of perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl (PFAS) found in biosolids applied to agricultural fields. Requires OSU extension and CAS to collaborate with the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality and Oregon wastewater service providers to identify PFAS concentrations in biosolids produced by selected wastewater treatment facilities; compare them to PFAS concentrations in selected agricultural fields where biosolids have been added to the soil; examine the potential for PFAS to leach into ground water; and to examine PFAS uptake in various crops in Oregon. Directs OSU extension and CAS to report findings to agriculture-related interim committees of Legislative Assembly by September 15, 2025. Appropriates \$525,000 General Fund moneys to Oregon State University. Sunsets January 2, 2026. Takes effect on 91st day following adjournment sine die.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Prevalence of PFAS in water and soil
- Variability of PFAS in different environments
- Point sources for PFAS

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

Increases the General Fund moneys appropriated to Oregon State University from \$500,000 to \$525,000.

BACKGROUND:

Perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl (PFAS) are human made, have been used in a variety of industrial processes and consumer products since the 1940s, and can, among other places, be found in fertilizers derived from biosolids. PFAS are also referred to as "forever-chemicals" as some of their components break down very slowly over time. Current scientific research suggests that exposure to high levels of certain PFAS may lead to adverse health outcomes. However, research is still ongoing to determine how different levels of exposure to different PFAS can lead to a variety of health effects. A 2013-2015 analysis of major public drinking water systems found no detection of PFAS in Oregon's public drinking water systems.

House Bill 3123 A would require the Oregon State University Extension Service and the Oregon State University College of Agricultural Sciences in collaboration with the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality and Oregon wastewater service providers to study the fate and transport of perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl found in biosolids applied to agricultural fields and to report findings to agriculture-related interim committees of Legislative Assembly by September 15, 2025.