HB 3103 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

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

Action Date:	03/21/23
Action:	Do pass with amendments and be referred to Ways and Means by prior reference. (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:	3/9, 3/21

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Directs the Oregon State University Extension Service (extension service) and Oregon State University Agricultural Experiment Station (experiment station) to establish a voluntary, nonregulatory, and incentive-based agricultural water management technical assistance program. Requires the assistance program to include staffing agricultural water management specialists based in different regions of the state to build collaborative relationships with water and land managers and to develop research-based water management programs; connect agricultural producers to relevant support and other incentives to improve on-farm water management practices; create a voluntary demonstration network of agricultural producers to develop water-related on-farm demonstration projects to promote the update of effective projects and practices and assess their effects; promote innovative agricultural water management practices via workshops and tours; maintain and support a system of publicly available weather and climate data as well as tools to increase agricultural yields and efficient management of water resources; in consultation with the Oregon Water Resources Department (OWRD) provide publicly accessible satellite-based evapotranspiration data as collected by a contracted organization and use it to support evapotranspiration data production, provide more accurate data for different regions in Oregon, conduct outreach to agricultural producers to verify accuracy and improve data usability; partner with agricultural producers and other subject matter experts to verify remote sensing data accuracy, develop new tools, and identify best management practices; perform and publish agricultural water management research; develop and update Oregon-specific resources with a focus on effective practices that will increase the likelihood of securing federal funding for agricultural water management; and provide technical assistance to small farmers or ranchers in accessing state and federal assistance programs. Authorizes the extension service and the experiment station to support the acquisition and maintenance of necessary equipment, technology, and services related to data relevant to agricultural water use and management. Authorizes the extension service and the experiment station to form partnerships with agricultural producers and certain institutions for the purpose of data collection and processing, convene statewide or region-specific advisory groups or working groups to advise on any aspect of the program, and receive and expend funds to support a voluntary demonstration network of agricultural producers and quantifiable drought resiliency programs. Requires the extension service and the experiment station to jointly track and annually report on climate-related impacts on agricultural producers to agriculture-related interim committees of the Legislative Assembly by September 15 of each year. Requires the extension service and the experiment station to jointly report on the progress of the technical assistance program to agriculture-related interim committees of the Legislative Assembly by September 15 of each even-numbered year.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Role of Oregon State University Extension Service

HB 3103 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

- Legislative intent of the measure
- Future potential for increased coordination and integration between agriculture and Oregon State University

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

Replaces the measure.

BACKGROUND:

Increased air temperatures and changing precipitation patterns have potential consequences for Oregon's water resources. According to the Oregon Water Resources Department, much of the state's precipitation is predicted to arrive as rain instead of snow by 2089, which will alter the distribution of water availability throughout the year and increase drought conditions in the summer and fall. These changes will affect agricultural producers in Oregon.

House Bill 3103 A would direct the Oregon State University Extension Service and Oregon State University Agricultural Experiment Station to establish a voluntary, nonregulatory, and incentive-based agricultural water management technical assistance program.