

House Bill 3244

Sponsored by Representatives HELM, OWENS; Representatives GAMBA, SCHARF, Senators DEMBROW, PROZANSKI, SMITH DB

SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced**.

Establishes Task Force on the Economic Competitiveness of Oregon Agriculture.
Instructs task force to submit report to committee or interim committee of Legislative Assembly related to agriculture no later than September 15, 2024.
Sunsets task force on December 31, 2024.
Takes effect on 91st day following adjournment sine die.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1 Relating to the economic competitiveness of Oregon agriculture; and prescribing an effective date.

2 Whereas Oregon agriculture is vital to the health and prosperity of all Oregonians; and

3 Whereas Oregon agriculture is the second largest economic sector in Oregon; and

4 Whereas food, fiber, plant and livestock production are critical sectors when considering and
5 attempting to maximize state competitiveness; and

6 Whereas for agriculture to remain sustainable for future generations in Oregon, a balance of
7 economic, environmental and social values must be considered; and

8 Whereas after the COVID-19 pandemic the global economy is changing and contracting dra-
9 matically, and Oregon must be prepared to adapt to new economic conditions; now, therefore,

10 **Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:**

11 **SECTION 1. (1) The Task Force on the Economic Competitiveness of Oregon Agriculture**
12 **is established.**

13 **(2) The Director of Agriculture shall appoint to the task force a number of members,**
14 **determined by the director, who:**

15 **(a) Are experts from universities, agencies and the private sector or otherwise have ag-**
16 **ricultural experience; and**

17 **(b) Reflect the diversity of Oregon's agricultural sector.**

18 **(3) The task force shall:**

19 **(a) Assess the economic competitiveness of Oregon agricultural products within the**
20 **United States domestic market, considering:**

21 **(A) The impacts of drought, heat, wildfire and water availability on crop production and**
22 **harvest losses, and any associated crop insurance gaps related to the impacts.**

23 **(B) Labor shortages, farm worker housing supply, costs of guest worker programs and**
24 **tax credits related to labor and housing.**

25 **(C) The overall regulatory burden on Oregon agricultural entities, including the cost of**
26 **compliance verification, compared to regulatory burdens on other sectors within the state**
27 **and compared to agricultural sectors in other states.**

28 **(D) Any competitive advantages that agricultural sectors in other states attain through**
29

NOTE: Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter [*italic and bracketed*] is existing law to be omitted.
New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 ecosystem practice payments, carbon sequestration payments and other incentive programs,
2 as well as through investments in solutions such as drought resilient crops.

3 (E) The viability of local food markets in Oregon.

4 (b) Assess the impacts on the Oregon agricultural sector from changes in the global
5 market and supply chains after 2020, considering:

6 (A) Whether Oregon should increase produce as a component of the overall agricultural
7 sector in this state.

8 (B) The costs of agricultural inputs, including fuels, fertilizers, other chemical inputs and
9 energy.

10 (4) A majority of the members of the task force constitutes a quorum for the transaction
11 of business.

12 (5) Official action by the task force requires the approval of a majority of the members
13 of the task force.

14 (6) The task force shall elect one of its members to serve as chairperson.

15 (7) If there is a vacancy for any cause, the appointing authority shall make an appoint-
16 ment to become immediately effective.

17 (8) The task force shall meet at times and places specified by the call of the chairperson
18 or of a majority of the members of the task force.

19 (9) The task force may adopt rules necessary for the operation of the task force.

20 (10) The task force shall submit a report in the manner provided in ORS 192.245, and may
21 include recommendations for legislation, to a committee or interim committee of the Legis-
22 lative Assembly related to agriculture no later than September 15, 2024. The report must
23 make recommendations that may form the basis of a new or revised strategic road map for
24 ensuring the competitiveness of Oregon agriculture, based on the results of the assessments
25 described in subsection (3) of this section.

26 (11) The State Department of Agriculture shall provide staff support to the task force.

27 (12) All agencies of state government, as defined in ORS 174.111, are directed to assist
28 the task force in the performance of the duties of the task force and, to the extent permitted
29 by laws relating to confidentiality, to furnish information and advice the members of the task
30 force consider necessary to perform their duties.

31 SECTION 2. Section 1 of this 2023 Act is repealed on December 31, 2024.

32 SECTION 3. This 2023 Act takes effect on the 91st day after the date on which the 2023
33 regular session of the Eighty-second Legislative Assembly adjourns sine die.

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