

HB 4059 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Carrier: Rep. Helm

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

Action Date: 02/15/24
Action: Do pass with amendments. (Printed A-Eng.)
Vote: 5-3-1-0
Yeas: 5 - Gamba, Hartman, Helm, Marsh, McLain
Nays: 3 - Boice, Owens, Scharf
Exc: 1 - Levy B
Fiscal: Has minimal fiscal impact
Revenue: No revenue impact
Prepared By: Anna Glueder, LPRO Analyst
Meeting Dates: 2/13, 2/15

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure **modifies the definition of canola** related to canola laws for the Willamette Valley Protected District (WVPD), changes the licensing requirement to grow canola in the WVPD to a **permitting** requirement, and changes "**industry-recommended isolation distance**" to "**customary isolation distances in the WVPD.**" The measure also **extends the sunset** on the modified canola laws for the WVPD to **January 2, 2028**. It declares an emergency and becomes effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Results of the canola study by Oregon State University ("Canola Final Report," 2017)
- Intention and outcome of the workgroup initiated through Senate Bill 789 (2023)
- Definition of "isolation distance" in the amendment
- Isolation distances adopted in other states
- Loss of farmland in Oregon since 2017
- Next steps and intention to introduce future legislation
- Role of canola in agricultural industry in the WVPD
- Role of genetically engineered (GE) crops in the context of the measure
- Proposed acreage caps on GE brassica crops
- Reasoning for choosing the 500-acre limit on canola in the "Canola Final Report" (2017)
- Procedural timelines and deadlines for the 2024 legislative session

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

Replaces the measure.

BACKGROUND:

Brassica is a genus of plants in the cabbage and mustard family and, among others, includes agricultural crops like broccoli, cabbage, turnips, and canola. In 2013, the Legislative Assembly passed House Bill 2427 directing the College of Agricultural Sciences at Oregon State University to study canola and report the results to an interim committee of the Legislative Assembly by November 1, 2017. The measure also prohibited the growing of canola in the Willamette Valley with an exception for the 500 acres necessary to conduct the study. In 2015, House Bill 3382 amended that law and allowed the Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) to authorize up to 500 acres for the commercial production of canola in the Willamette Valley Protected District (WVPD) with certain restrictions, and required ODA to develop coexistence recommendations for a 2018 legislative report. The measure also extended the sunset prohibiting the growing of canola in the WVPD to January 2, 2020. In 2019, Senate Bill 885

This summary has not been adopted or officially endorsed by action of the committee.

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extended the 500-acre authorization to June 30, 2023, and in 2023, Senate Bill 789 extended the 500-acre authorization to July 1, 2024.