

SB 779 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Early Childhood and Behavioral Health

Prepared By: Katie Hart, LPRO Analyst

Sub-Referral To: Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Meeting Dates: 2/20

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure appropriates \$2,000,000 in General Fund money for the 2025-2027 biennium for the Oregon State University Foundation Rural Mental Health Fund Endowment to support the expenses of operating the AgriStress Helpline in Oregon. Declares an emergency, effective July 1, 2025.

Fiscal impact: May have fiscal impact, but no statement yet issued

Revenue impact: May have revenue impact, but no statement yet issued

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

The AgriStress Helpline is a free, 24/7 crisis hotline for Oregon’s agricultural and forestry communities, including farmers, ranchers, fishermen, foresters, and their families. Phone call interpretation is available in 160 languages and text messaging is available in English, Spanish, and Vietnamese ([Quick Glimpse at the AgriStress Helpline](#), 2024). The helpline operates in Arizona, Colorado, Connecticut, Missouri, Montana, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Texas, Virginia, Washington, and Wyoming. [SB 955 \(2023\)](#) appropriated \$300,000 to establish an endowment to fund the Oregon AgriStress Helpline.

SB 779 appropriates \$2,000,000 to the previously established endowment to support the operating expenses of the AgriStress Helpline in Oregon.