



Legislative Fiscal Office
 83rd Oregon Legislative Assembly
 2025 Regular Session

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 Date: March 3, 2025

Bill Title: Relating to using seaweed as feed for livestock; declaring an emergency.

Government Unit(s) Affected: Department of Agriculture, Higher Education Coordinating Commission

Summary of Fiscal Impact

2025-27 Biennium	General Fund	Lottery Funds	Other Funds	Federal Funds	Total Funds	Positions	FTE
Higher Education Coordinating Commission	\$ 250,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 250,000	-	-
Department of Agriculture	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	-	-
Total Fiscal Impact	\$ 250,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 250,000	-	-

2027-29 Biennium	General Fund	Lottery Funds	Other Funds	Federal Funds	Total Funds	Positions	FTE
Higher Education Coordinating Commission	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	-	-
Department of Agriculture	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	-	-
Total Fiscal Impact	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	-	-

Measure Description

The measure directs the Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA), in partnership with Oregon State University (OSU), to study the potential for developing commercial seaweed production for livestock feed to reduce methane emissions. ODA is required to submit a report on its findings to an appropriate committee or interim committee of the Legislative Assembly by September 15, 2027.

The measure appropriates \$250,000 General Fund to OSU for the 2025-27 biennium to support the study. The study provision is repealed on January 2, 2028. The Legislative Fiscal Office notes that because Oregon State University is not a state agency, appropriations cannot be made directly to OSU. As written, there is not a mechanism to distribute funds to OSU.

Fiscal Analysis

The fiscal impact of the measure is \$250,000 General Fund in the 2025-27 biennium.

Department of Agriculture

ODA will collaborate with OSU to complete the study and submit the required report. Any necessary research or professional services contracts are expected to be funded by the General Fund appropriation provided by the measure to OSU. ODA will contribute existing staff time to support the study and compile the report, with the workload anticipated to have a minimal fiscal impact.

Higher Education Coordinating Commission

The measure provides a \$250,000 General Fund appropriation to OSU for the study, with anticipated costs of \$249,875 for the 2025-27 biennium. The OSU Agricultural Experiment Station, through the Eastern Oregon Agricultural Research Center, will lead the study. Estimated expenses include salaries and benefits for a graduate research assistant, as well as costs for equipment, supplies, and publication fees. The study will evaluate the potential of using seaweed as livestock feed to reduce methane emissions.

The Legislative Fiscal Office notes that because Oregon State University is not a state agency, appropriations cannot be made directly to OSU. As written, there is not a mechanism to distribute funds to OSU.

Relevant Dates

ODA is required to submit a report on its findings to an appropriate committee or interim committee of the Legislative Assembly by September 15, 2027.

The requirement for ODA and OSU to study the potential for developing commercial seaweed production for livestock feed to reduce methane emissions is repealed on January 2, 2028.

The measure declares an emergency and takes effect on passage.