

SB 788 -3 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Natural Resources and Wildfire

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Meeting Dates: 3/6

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure adds weddings and event venues as authorized uses on lands zoned for farm use east of the summit of the Cascade Range in counties with a population fewer than 90,000 if conducted outdoors or in farm buildings.

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:

-3 amendment revises the regulations for weddings and event venues located east of the Cascade Range summit, adding that these events must be secondary and related to the existing farm use, and not established as a separate commercial business from the farm.

BACKGROUND:

Senate Bill 100 (1973) established 19 statewide land use planning goals, with Goal 3 requiring counties to designate farmland as exclusive farm use (EFU) land based on soil type and other factors. According to the Land Conservation and Development Department (DLCD) agritourism offers visitors a chance to experience Oregon agriculture and provides additional income for farmers. Those interested in starting or expanding agritourism businesses must consult their county planning department to determine necessary permits. Farmers operating agritourism activities on EFU land are required to obtain a permit from their county. DLCD also notes that agritourism income can support farm operations but that unrestricted events may conflict with neighboring farm operations.

Agritourism events are limited by size, duration, and may be subject to additional standards on noise, traffic, and sanitation and events often must be related to and support agriculture. There are various permitting options, including expedited permits for small events and conditional use permits for larger or recurring events, with requirements that the events do not negatively affect surrounding farm operations.