

SB 833 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

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

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Meeting Dates: 4/16

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure modifies labeling requirements for certain soil enhancing products, and changes reporting requirements for filing a semiannual tonnage report with the Oregon Department of Agriculture.

Detailed Summary:

- Provides additional labeling formats for certain soil enhancing products.
- Requires that the guaranteed analysis of chelated, water soluble, or other form of plant nutrient not exceed the total guaranteed analysis of the same secondary nutrient or micronutrient.
- Requires a product label for fertilizer, agricultural amendment, agricultural mineral, or lime product label to include a guaranteed analysis of boron or molybdenum if their concentrations are greater than 0.1 percent or 0.001 percent respectively.
- Authorizes Oregon Department of Agriculture to adopt rules establishing and maintaining labeling requirements and guidelines for fertilizer products and agricultural amendment products that align with national standards developed by the Association of American Plant Food Control Officials.
- Modifies reporting requirements for filing a semiannual tonnage report with the Oregon Department of Agriculture.

FISCAL: Has minimal fiscal impact

REVENUE: No revenue impact

SENATE VOTE: Ayes 20; Nays 8; Excused 2

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Clarity for people applying soil amendments
- Consistency with national labeling standards

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

The Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) Fertilizer Program is responsible for inspecting and registering fertilizer, agricultural mineral, lime, and agricultural amendment products that are distributed within the state. Under Oregon law, “distribution” encompasses a wide range of activities, including import, consignment, sale, offer for sale, barter, or any other means of supplying these products. All such products must be registered with the ODA prior to being distributed in Oregon.

As outlined in the Oregon Fertilizer Program Registration Guide, the primary goal of regulating and monitoring these products is to ensure consistent and accurate labeling, verify through sampling and analysis that the products deliver the nutrients and benefits they claim, and protect Oregon’s environment and natural resources from contaminants. Additionally, the program supports ODA’s fertilizer research and development efforts, which fund studies on how these products interact with ground and surface water.