

## **HB 2947 A -A3 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**

### **Joint Committee On Ways and Means**

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**Prepared By:** Twais Broadus, Fiscal Analyst

**Meeting Dates:** 6/3

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#### **WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

The measure appropriates \$800,000 from the General Fund for distribution to Oregon State University (OSU) and requires the OSU Extension Service and the OSU College of Agricultural Sciences (CAS) in collaboration with the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality and Oregon wastewater service providers to study the occurrence and distribution of perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl found in biosolids applied to agricultural fields that do not produce crops intended for human consumption. The measure also requires the OSU Extension Service and CAS to submit a progress report and a final report to agriculture-related interim committees of the Legislative Assembly by December 15, 2026, and September 1, 2028, respectively.

The study must quantify PFAS concentrations in biosolids from selected wastewater facilities, in soil profiles of adjacent fields with and without biosolid application, and in associated crops. It must also assess PFAS retention and leaching within soils. Participation by farmers, landowners, land managers, and wastewater service providers is voluntary. OSU is directed to use data collection methods that protect site and participant anonymity, reporting only summarized or aggregated findings.

#### **ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Fiscal impact of the measure
- Effect of Amendment

#### **EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:**

-A3 The amendment reduces the General Fund appropriation from \$800,000 to \$410,000.

#### **BACKGROUND:**

Perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl (PFAS) are human made, have been used in a variety of industrial processes and consumer products since the 1940s, and can, among other places, be found in fertilizers derived from biosolids. PFAS are also referred to as "forever-chemicals" as some of their components break down very slowly over time. Current scientific research suggests that exposure to high levels of certain PFAS may lead to adverse health outcomes. However, research is still ongoing to determine how different levels of exposure to different PFAS can lead to a variety of health effects. A 2013-2015 analysis of major public drinking water systems found no detection of PFAS in Oregon's public drinking water systems.