

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL OFFICE
900 Court Street NE, Room H-178
Salem, Oregon 97301
(503) 986-1828

Amanda Beitel, Legislative Fiscal Officer
Paul Siebert, Deputy Legislative Fiscal Officer
John Terpening, Deputy Legislative Fiscal Officer



JOINT COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Senator Lieber, Senate Co-Chair
Representative Sanchez, House Co-Chair

Senator Girod, Senate Co-Vice Chair
Representative Gomberg, House Co-Vice Chair
Representative Smith, House Co-Vice Chair

To: Capital Construction Subcommittee

From: Kim To, Legislative Fiscal Office

Date: June 20, 2025

Subject: HB 2548 – Relating to labor standards for agricultural workers
Work Session Recommendations

The measure directs the Center for Public Service at Portland State University (PSU), in consultation with Oregon State University, to conduct a study of labor standards in Oregon's agricultural industry with a focus on the health and safety risks, compensation and benefits, and employment conditions of farmworkers. The measure requires the Center to hold in-person interviews and focus groups and conduct a confidential survey of farmers to gain firsthand experiences and perspectives regarding working conditions. To the greatest extent practicable, the Center shall protect the confidentiality of identities of individual farmers and farmworkers. The measure requires the Higher Education Coordinating Commission to submit three reports on the findings of the study to interim legislative committees related to agriculture, business and labor, and natural resources - with the first report by May 1, 2026, the second report by September 1, 2026, and the final report by December 1, 2026.

In addition, the measure directs the Legislative Policy and Research Office (LPRO) to conduct a study assessing labor standards in Oregon's agricultural industry with a focus on the rights and protections of farmworkers. The study must include an evaluation of how relevant state agencies coordinate with each other in administering policies and programs regarding farmworkers' rights and protection. LPRO is required to submit the report to interim legislative committees related to agriculture, business and labor, and natural resources by September 15, 2026.

Fiscal, revenue, and open government impact statements are available on the Oregon Legislative Information System.

The - A9 amendment appropriates \$666,791 General Fund to the Higher Education Coordinating Commission to distribute to Center to conduct the study.

Amendment

LFO recommends adoption of the –A9 amendment.

MOTION: I move adoption of the –A9 amendment to HB 2548. *(vote)*

Final Subcommittee Action

LFO recommends that HB 2548, as amended by the –A9 amendment, be moved to the Ways and Means Full Committee.

MOTION: I move HB 2548, as amended, to the Full Committee with a do pass recommendation. *(vote)*

Carriers

Full Committee:

House Floor:

Senate Floor: