

## HB 2979 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

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

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**Action Date:** 02/12/25

**Action:** Do pass and be referred to Ways and Means by prior reference

**Vote:** 8-0-1-0

**Yeas:** 8 - Boice, Hartman, Helm, Levy B, Marsh, McDonald, McLain, Owens

**Exc:** 1 - Scharf

**Fiscal:** Fiscal impact issued

**Revenue:** No revenue impact

**Prepared By:** Anna Glueder, LPRO Analyst

**Meeting Dates:** 2/5, 2/12

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#### WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure appropriates a total of \$8 million from the General Fund to the Oregon Department of Administrative Services for distribution to the Oregon Community Food System Network and the Oregon Farmers Market Association. The measure declares an emergency and is effective on July 1, 2025.

#### Detailed Summary

#### Appropriations

Appropriates the following General Fund moneys to the Oregon Department of Administrative Services for distribution to the following entities and purposes:

- \$3.5 million to the Oregon Community Food System Network (OCFSN) for grants for small-scale farms and ranches.
- \$2 million to OCFSN to support food hubs and regional food system infrastructure.
- \$2 million to the Oregon Farmers Market Association (OFMA) to support local food system resilience and increase access to farmers markets for communities and agricultural producers.
- \$500,000 to OFMA for grants and farmers markets to cover costs associated with acceptance of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits.

#### Operative Date

Declares an emergency and takes effect on July 1, 2025.

#### ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Amount of written testimony letters submitted to the Oregon Legislative Information System
- Process of using Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits at farmers markets
- Specific uses of appropriated funds to Oregon Farmers Market Association to be used for costs associated with the acceptance of SNAP benefits
- Impacts of the financial investments made to the causes described in the measure for Oregonians

#### EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

#### BACKGROUND:

The Oregon Community Food System Network (OCFSN) is a network of 59 Oregon nonprofit organizations dedicated to strengthening local and regional food systems. OCFSN administers the Farmer and Rancher Disaster Resilience Grant Program, which was established by the Legislative Assembly in 2021 when it received \$1.5 million in funding through [SB 5561](#). The program received additional \$2.65 million in funding during the 2023 regular

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legislative session. The Oregon Farmers Market Association (OFMA) is a non-profit organization with a mission to support local agriculture and healthy communities by strengthening and promoting Oregon’s farmers markets. During the 2023 regular legislative session, the Legislative Assembly appropriated \$2.5 million to OFMA.