

HB 2167 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

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

Action Date: 03/17/25

Action: Do pass with amendments and be referred to Ways and Means by prior reference.
(Printed A-Eng.)

Vote: 8-0-1-0

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

Exc: 1 - Owens

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: No revenue impact

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Meeting Dates: 1/22, 3/17

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure appropriates \$3.5 million from the General Fund to the Higher Education Coordinating Commission for distribution to Oregon State University's Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory to support faculty and personnel working on chronic wasting disease and zoonotic diseases. The measure declares an emergency and takes effect on July 1, 2025.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Current enrollment in the veterinary program at Oregon State University (OSU)
- Importance of understanding zoonotic diseases
- Reasoning for OSU's veterinary school's funding gap
- Importance of keeping OSU's veterinary program running

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

The amendment removes the appropriation for the Carlson College of Veterinary Medicine at Oregon State University.

BACKGROUND:

A zoonotic disease refers to an infectious disease caused by a pathogen that has jumped from a non-human animal to a human. Zoonotic diseases can be transmitted to humans in a variety of ways and may represent a major public health problem. Examples include rabies, Lyme disease, and bird flu. Chronic wasting disease (CWD) is an infectious disease affecting deer, elk, and moose across North America and spread through direct body contact or contact with infectious material and results in gradual loss of body fat and muscle mass.