

## HB 2947 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

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

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**Action Date:** 03/19/25

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

**Vote:** 9-0-0-0

**Yeas:** 9 - Boice, Hartman, Helm, Levy B, Marsh, McDonald, McLain, Owens, Scharf

**Fiscal:** Fiscal impact issued

**Revenue:** No revenue impact

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**Meeting Dates:** 2/10, 3/19

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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 substances 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.

#### Detailed Summary

Requires the Oregon State University (OSU) Extension Service and the OSU College of Agricultural Sciences (CAS) to study the occurrence and distribution of perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl (PFAS) substances found in biosolids applied to agricultural fields that are not intended for human consumption.

#### I. Study Requirements

- Requires the OSU Extension Service and CAS to collaborate with the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality and Oregon wastewater service providers.
- Requires the study to identify **PFAS concentrations in selected biosolids** from selected wastewater treatment facilities in Oregon.
- Requires the study to identify **PFAS concentrations in the soil profiles** of selected adjacent fields—one with and one without a history of biosolid application.
- Requires the study to utilize results to determine the **quantities of PFAS retained within and leached from soil profiles**.
- Requires the study to identify **PFAS concentrations in the crops** analyzed in this study.
- Requires all **specified study results to be quantified**.
- Specifies study participation to be voluntary by wastewater treatment service providers, farmers, landowners, and land managers.
- Requires the OSU Extension Service and CAS to, where possible, use data collection methods that **do not disclose precise study locations** and participant identities, and requires **all identifying data to be reported in a summarized or aggregated fashion** that does not disclose the location or ownership of studied agricultural fields or wastewater treatment facilities.

#### II. Reporting Requirements

- Requires the OSU Extension Service and CAS to submit a progress report by December 15, 2025, and a final report by September 1, 2027, to agriculture-related interim committees of the Legislative Assembly, and

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specifies the required report content.

### III. Appropriation

- Appropriates \$800,000 from the General Fund to the Higher Education Coordinating Commission for distribution to OSU.

### IV. Sunset and Effective Date

- Sunsets study and reporting requirements January 2, 2029.
- Declares an emergency, effective on passage.

### **ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Previously awarded federal grants related to PFAS substances
- History of the measure
- Importance of understanding how PFAS substances are transported in the environment and how their presence is affecting human beings

### **EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:**

The amendment specifies the appropriation amount to be \$800,000.

### **BACKGROUND:**

Perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl (PFAS) substances 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 substances 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 substances may lead to adverse health outcomes. However, research is still ongoing to determine how different levels of exposure to different PFAS substances can lead to a variety of health effects. A 2013–2015 analysis of major public drinking water systems found no detection of PFAS substances in Oregon's public drinking water systems.