

HB 3487 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Carrier: Rep. McIntire

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

Action Date: 03/24/25

Action: Do pass with amendments. (Printed A-Eng.)

Vote: 9-0-0-0

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

Fiscal: Has minimal fiscal impact

Revenue: No revenue impact

Prepared By: Anna Glueder, LPRO Analyst

Meeting Dates: 3/5, 3/24

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure authorizes counties that receive funds for grasshopper suppression efforts from the Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) to use up to eight percent of those funds for administrative expenses associated with suppression efforts. The measure applies to funds appropriated to the ODA in 2024. The measure declares an emergency and is effective on its passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Reason for the cap on funds authorized to be spent on administration
- Overhead associated with fund administration at the county level
- Update on the grasshopper suppression fund
- Economic loss associated with recent grasshopper outbreaks

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

The amendment specifies that counties may use **up to eight percent** of the relevant funds for expenses associated with administering grasshopper suppression efforts.

BACKGROUND:

While grasshoppers are native to Oregon, in the summer of 2021 Oregon experienced economically damaging infestation levels of grasshoppers and Mormon Crickets that affected approximately 10 million acres of rangeland in 18 counties. According to the Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA), grasshopper outbreaks often follow or coincide with drought years when conditions favoring grasshopper development align with low numbers of predators. Suppression efforts typically involve aerial applications of the growth insecticide diflubenzuron, applied once per season. During the second special session of 2021, Senate Bill 5561 allocated \$5 million to the ODA for grasshopper and cricket suppression, with \$3.8 million designated for a cost-sharing program to assist private landowners with treatment expenses. In 2024, the Legislature allocated an additional \$1.25 million for continued suppression efforts.