

HB 3487 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Carrier: Sen. Prozanski

Senate Committee On Natural Resources and Wildfire

Action Date: 04/24/25

Action: Do pass the A-Eng bill.

Vote: 5-0-0-0

Yeas: 5 - Girod, Golden, Nash, Prozanski, Taylor

Fiscal: Has minimal fiscal impact

Revenue: No revenue impact

Prepared By: Alexa Piscanio, LPRO Analyst

Meeting Dates: 4/22, 4/24

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure allows counties receiving grasshopper suppression funds from the Department of Agriculture to use up to eight percent of those funds for administrative expenses. Declares an emergency, effective upon passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Rationale for eight percent
- \$5 million allocated to the Department of Agriculture for suppression efforts, and current allocations within the Insect and Pest Prevention and Management Program

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Grasshoppers are native to Oregon. In 2021, Oregon experienced a severe grasshopper and Mormon Cricket outbreak that damaged 10 million acres across 18 counties. According to the Department of Agriculture (ODA), grasshopper outbreaks are often triggered by drought conditions and warm springs, which create favorable environments for grasshopper egg hatching and survival, reducing controls like predators and disease. Infestations can harm rangelands by consuming forage and vegetation vital for livestock and wildlife, leading to environmental degradation, erosion, and further crop losses.

While over 100 species of grasshoppers are found in Oregon, only around 10 have historically reached damaging outbreak levels. Notable pest species include the Migratory, Red-legged, and Two-striped Grasshoppers, with more recent outbreaks also involving the Big-headed and Valley Grasshoppers.

Suppression efforts for grasshoppers and Mormon Crickets in Oregon typically involve a single seasonal aerial application of the insecticide diflubenzuron. In 2021, the Legislature allocated \$5 million through Senate Bill 5561 to ODA, with \$3.8 million set aside for a cost-sharing program to help private landowners cover treatment costs. In 2024, an additional \$1.25 million was allocated to support ongoing suppression efforts.