

**REVENUE: No revenue impact**

**FISCAL: Minimal fiscal impact, no statement issued**

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**Action:** Do Pass as Amended and Be Printed Engrossed  
**Vote:** 5 - 1 - 1  
**Yeas:** Boquist, Clem, Dingfelder, Macpherson, Roblan  
**Nays:** Smith P.  
**Exc.:** Maurer  
**Prepared By:** Beth Patrino, Administrator  
**Meeting Dates:** 4/19

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:** Adds member of order Crocodylia to definition of exotic animal in ORS 609.305. Defines "wildlife sanctuary." Prohibits breeding of exotic animals. Exempts certain organizations, institutions and facilities from prohibition against possession of exotic animal. Allows temporary authorization to possess offspring of exotic animal. Allows permit for possession of animal of order Crocodylia under certain circumstances. Declares emergency, effective upon passage.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Current state and federal permitting system for exotic animals
- Recent changes in other states' laws
- Breeding of endangered species in private facilities
- Public safety and health issues related to exotic animals

**EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:** Restores facilities with a valid federal license to the list of exemptions from state permitting requirements. Adds to the list of exempt facilities an educational facility housing a member of the family Crocodylia at the request of state or local government. Deletes transportation provisions.

**BACKGROUND:** ORS 609.305 to 609.335 address the keeping of exotic animals in Oregon. Currently, the statute defines "exotic animal" as including any member of the family Felidae (felines), except the domestic cat; non-human primates; wolves; non-wolf members of the family Canidae not indigenous to Oregon, except the domestic dog; and any bear, except the black bear. HB 3437-A adds the order Crocodylia to the list of exotic animals in state law.

HB 3437-A also begins a phasing out of the state permitting program. Currently, ORS 609.319 prohibits any person from keeping an exotic animal without a state permit. HB 3437-A prohibits any person from keeping an exotic animal unless a permit was obtained from the State Department of Agriculture and the permit was obtained prior to the effective date of the bill. This permit requirement does not apply to wildlife rehabilitation centers, facilities operated under a valid license or research facility registration issued by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), an exotic animal protection organization, a law enforcement agency, a licensed veterinary hospital or clinic, or a wildlife sanctuary. The bill also exempts educational facilities that house a member of the order Crocodylia at the request of the state or local government.