

**REVENUE:** No revenue impact

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

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**Action:** Do Pass as Amended and Be Printed Engrossed and Rescind the Subsequent Referral to the Committee on Ways and Means

**Vote:** 7 - 1 - 0

**Yeas:** Beyer, Krieger, Roblan, Schaufler, VanOrman, Wingard, Clem

**Nays:** Gilliam

**Exc.:** 0

**Prepared By:** Beth Patrino, Administrator

**Meeting Dates:** 3/3, 4/7

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:** Creates crime of sale or purchase of hunts for feral swine on public or private land. Establishes violation as a Class A misdemeanor. Authorizes Fish and Wildlife Commission to impose a civil penalty of \$1,000. Prohibits conviction of violator if a civil penalty is imposed. Specifies a civil penalty may not be imposed if violator has been convicted. Directs commission, in addition to any criminal or civil penalty, to revoke all hunting licenses, tags and permits issued to violator and prohibits violator from applying for any license, tag or permit for a period of 24 months.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Cost of eradication of established invasive species populations
- Private landowner responsibility
- Importance of eliminating opportunity to introduce feral swine for hunts

**EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:** Requires a person or an employee of that person who acts as a land manager to hunt or trap, or cause to be hunted or trapped, any feral swine that roams on land owned or controlled by that person if they know feral swine are present. Specifies that no violation occurs if person contacts the Department of Fish and Wildlife within 72 hours of discovering feral swine and cooperates with the department to hunt or trap feral swine or the person provides the department with a plan that details, to the satisfaction of the department, specific tasks and deadlines to confine the feral swine to the land or to hunt or trap the feral swine.

**BACKGROUND:** Feral swine – free-ranging wild pigs – exist in at least 39 states according to the United States Department of Agriculture. Some experts estimate their numbers at over four million, with the largest populations located in California, Florida, Hawaii, and Texas. Feral swine can cause extensive damage to property and livestock. Their rooting and wallowing activities cause serious erosion to river banks and areas along streams. These animals have been known to tear through livestock and game fences and consume animal feed, minerals, and protein supplements.

HB 2221A would prohibit the sale or purchase of hunts for feral swine.