

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Minimal fiscal impact, no statement issued

Action:	Do Pass as Amended and Be Printed Engrossed
Vote:	10 - 0 - 0
Yeas:	Barton, Cameron, Garrett, Krieger, Olson, Shields, Smith J., Stiegler, Whisnant, Barker
Nays:	0
Exc.:	0
Prepared By:	Shannon Sivell, Counsel
Meeting Dates:	3/4, 3/17

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Modifies the procedure for impounding a fighting bird during an investigation for criminal mistreatment. Authorizes an officer to apply for a search warrant and impound animals in cases involving animal fighting. Requires a person convicted of sexual assault of an animal to report as a sex offender. Removes Section 4 of the measure.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Current procedures for impounding animals
- Authority of animal control
- Warrants

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: Removes Section 4, which addressed amendments to ORS 181.594.

BACKGROUND: House Bill 2529A includes the crimes of animal fighting, dog fighting and cockfighting in the list of animal mistreatment crimes that may result in impoundment and forfeiture of the animals. It also adds these crimes to the list of circumstances where peace officers may provide emergency food, water and medical care to an animal for its own protection. Ultimately, the measure may provide a cost savings in cases involving seizures of large numbers of fighting birds or fighting dogs because it allows for the animals to be impounded on the premises where they were found. Removing and housing hundreds of fighting birds or fighting dogs during an investigation can be an overwhelming and dangerous task and holding them in the specialized housing found at the scene is the safest and most cost effective solution.

The measure also adds sexual assault of an animal to the list of sex crimes requiring the offender to register as a sex offender.