

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: No fiscal impact

Action:	Do Pass as Amended and Be Printed Engrossed
Vote:	8 - 0 - 0
Yeas:	Beyer, Gilliam, Krieger, Roblan, Schaufler, VanOrman, Wingard, Clem
Nays:	0
Exc.:	0
Prepared By:	Cheyenne Ross, Administrator
Meeting Dates:	4/16, 4/23

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Exempts from criminal charges employees of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) who possess or discharge a firearm during a lawful taking of wildlife within the scope of their employment.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Potential for criminal charges at state level if a USDA employee were to act
- Potential consequences of having to wait for local first-responders

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: Removes language referring to “agents” acting within the scope of the “agency” leaving only references to “employees” acting within the scope of their “employment.”

BACKGROUND: House Bill 2636A is meant to increase efficiency by not requiring multiple, local first-responders to be removed from other duties to address limited situations involving the lawful taking of wildlife that could potentially be resolved by a USDA employee, while also protecting the USDA employee from a potential criminal charge