

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Fiscal statement issued

Action:	Do Pass as Amended and Be Printed Engrossed
Vote:	6 - 0 - 2
Yeas:	Gilliam, Krieger, Roblan, Schaufler, Wingard, Clem
Nays:	0
Exc.:	Beyer, VanOrman
Prepared By:	Cheyenne Ross, Administrator
Meeting Dates:	4/16, 4/28

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Allows the adoption of civil penalties by the state Fish and Wildlife Commission (Commission) by rule. Sets amounts of civil penalties for unlawful taking of certain wildlife, including raptors, and provides for criminal penalties under certain circumstances. Modifies provisions regarding licensing, tags and permits. Authorizes expenditure of funds from Access and Habitat Program (A&H Program) on projects that promote access to public and private lands through the acquisition of easements. Requires that public lands managed for wildlife by the state be accessible for hunting. Directs Commission to avoid decisions that result in net loss of lands available for hunting. Requires report from the Director of the Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) regarding acreage available for hunting. Allows Commission to consider giving additional hunting permit preference points to those issued a resident pioneer hunting license.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Addition of similar bill (HB 3068) into this measure
- Broad support among hunting, fishing, wildlife, and bird groups
- Increased penalties appropriate for egregious facts
- Conservation emphasis

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: Authorizes expenditure of funds from A&H Program on projects that promote access to public and private lands through the acquisition of easements. Requires that public lands managed for wildlife be accessible for hunting. Directs Commission to avoid decisions that result in net loss of lands available for hunting. Requires report from Director of ODFW regarding acreage available for hunting. Allows Commission to consider giving additional hunting permit preference points to those issued a resident pioneer hunting license.

BACKGROUND: The hunting and fishing community is described as being the most invested in, the most supportive of, and the most affected by, the state's wildlife management practices. It contributes to the preservation of traditional recreational hunting and fishing activities by participating in the licensing and permitting processes that fund the state's conservation efforts, and it works cooperatively with state agencies on enforcement and access issues.

House Bill 3089A provides for hunting access on state-managed lands, strengthens penalties for unlawful activities, allows for the acquisition of easements for hunting access, and codifies the Commission's discretion to give hunting permit preference points to those with pioneer hunting licenses.