

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Fiscal statement issued

Action: Do Pass with Amendments to the A-Eng. Measure (Printed B-Eng.)

Vote: 5 - 0 - 0

Yeas: Atkinson, Boquist, Hass, Prozanski, Dingfelder

Nays: 0

Exc.: 0

Prepared By: Beth Herzog, Administrator

Meeting Dates: 5/26

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Allows adoption of civil penalties by 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 acquisition of easements. Allows Commission to consider giving additional hunting permit preference points to those issued resident pioneer hunting license. Expands definition of game mammal to include gray wolf as a special status mammal defined by Commission rule.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Designating gray wolf as game mammal will give Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife greater flexibility in funding wolf management program
- Examples of people intentionally targeting birds of prey
- No net loss provision directs Commission not to restrict hunting

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: Removes requirement that public lands managed for wildlife by state be accessible for hunting. Removes direction to Commission to avoid decisions that result in net loss of lands available for hunting and report to the Legislature. Changes definition of game mammal to include gray wolf as a special status mammal defined by commission rule.

BACKGROUND: The hunting and fishing community contribute to the preservation of hunting and fishing activities by participating in the licensing and permitting processes. House Bill 3089B, strengthens penalties for unlawful activities, allows for the acquisition of easements, and codifies the Commission's discretion to give hunting permit preference points to those with pioneer hunting licenses.