

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Fiscal statement issued

Action:	Do Pass
Vote:	8 - 2 - 0
Yeas:	Barton, Garrett, Krieger, Olson, Shields, Smith J., Stiegler, Barker
Nays:	Cameron, Whisnant
Exc.:	0
Prepared By:	Shannon Sivell, Counsel
Meeting Dates:	4/17, 4/20, 4/23

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Authorizes special agents employed by Governor to apply for search warrants and sign judge's name on duplicate original warrant. Declares an emergency; effective upon passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Provisions of the measure
- Opposition to the bill
- Governor's authority to appoint special agents

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

BACKGROUND: The primary role of special agents of the Oregon Humane Society is to investigate animal abuse and neglect cases. This bill is intended to fill a gap in statute to allow humane society special agents who are appointed by the governor to apply for, and execute, search warrants in the course of their duties. Under current law, it is unclear whether special agents have the authority to apply for and serve search warrants. As a result, they must rely on local law enforcement agencies in order to fully pursue animal abuse and neglect cases. This can cause delay in investigating animal abuse cases. In some instances, the need to rely on local police agencies may prevent special agents from completing a full investigation if local agencies do not have the time, resources or expertise necessary to become involved in such large scale investigations.