

REVENUE: No revenue impact
FISCAL: Fiscal statement issued

Action: Do Pass
Vote: 4 - 1 - 0
Yeas: Bonamici, Boquist, Dingfelder, Prozanski
Nays: Whitsett
Exc.: 0
Prepared By: Lisa Nuss, Counsel
Meeting Dates: 5/19

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:

- Person with firsthand knowledge of the case should be one to make affidavit to the court
- These cases can involve imminent threat of harm to animals
- Concerns expressed as to whether special agents are properly trained to apply for search warrants

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 clarify that humane society special agents who are appointed by the governor under ORS 131.805 can apply for search warrants in the course of their duties. Without this authority, they must first present their evidence to a local law enforcement agency and have one of those officers make the warrant application. This can cause delay in investigating animal abuse cases.