

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Minimal fiscal impact, no statement issued

Action: Do Pass
Vote: 9 - 0 - 1
Yeas: Barton, Cameron, Krieger, Olson, Shields, Smith J., Stiegler, Whisnant, Barker
Nays: 0
Exc.: Garrett
Prepared By: Anna Braun, Counsel
Meeting Dates: 5/13

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Prohibits returning a forfeited animal to a person in the same household. Requires written acknowledgment of rights and responsibilities of person receiving a forfeited animal. Requires agreement that the new owner give the animal minimum care and states that giving animal to abuser constitutes a crime. Creates crime of encouraging animal abuse, defined as knowingly allowing person who forfeited an animal because of abuse to possess the animal. Designates violation as a Class C misdemeanor with a fine of up to \$1,250 and up to 30 days in jail.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Livestock not affected

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

BACKGROUND: After an animal is forfeited, a court or agency may place the animal with a new owner. Under current statute, preference should be given to those who had prior contact with the animal. In abuse cases, there is concern that a person living with the abuser may put the animal at risk. SB 298 A prohibits animal placement in the same household as the abuser. In addition, the measure requires a new owner to sign a document stating that they will give the animal minimum care, defined in ORS 167.310(6), and acknowledging that giving possession of the animal to the abuser constitutes a crime. SB 298 A creates a new crime of encouraging animal abuse by knowingly allowing an abuser to possess the animal.