

**REVENUE:** No revenue impact

**FISCAL:** Minimal fiscal impact, no statement issued

---

**Action:** Do Pass as Amended and Be Printed Engrossed

**Vote:** 5 - 0 - 0

**Yeas:** Atkinson, Boquist, Hass, Prozanski, Dingfelder

**Nays:** 0

**Exc.:** 0

**Prepared By:** Beth Herzog, Administrator

**Meeting Dates:** 3/5, 3/17

---

**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:** Adds members of order Crocodylia to definition of exotic animal. Removes “any wolf” from the definition of exotic animal. Exempts wildlife sanctuaries, law enforcement agencies, and other organizations from the permit requirement. Defines “wildlife sanctuary.” Prohibits breeding of exotic animals. Provides an exemption for persons breeding small exotic cats if the persons are exempt from the permit requirement, have a permit to keep the animals and document that the offspring are for retail sale, or they breed the small exotic cats with domestic cats. Allows the Department of Agriculture to issue permits to keep exotic animals if application is made before the act takes effect, within 90 days of the effective date of the Act, or within one year if the applicant possessed the animal prior to the effective date of the Act.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Instances of violence
- Zoonotic diseases transmitted from animals to humans
- Role of sanctuaries and zoos in accepting unwanted animals
- Impact on people who legally own exotic pets

**EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:** Removes “any wolf” from the definition of exotic animal.

**BACKGROUND:** Currently, state law defines “exotic animal” as including any member of the family Felidae (felines), except the domestic cat; non-human primates; wolves; non-wolf members of the family Canidae not indigenous to Oregon, except the domestic dog; and any bear, except the black bear. In order to own one of these exotic pets as defined in statute, people are required to apply for and be issued a permit from the Oregon Department of Agriculture.

SB 391 A begins a phase out of the state permitting program. Current statute prohibits any person from keeping an exotic animal without a state permit. SB 391 A allows the Department of Agriculture to issue permits only during the first 90 days after the bill’s effective date, and allows exceptions for up to one year only for persons who possessed the exotic animals prior to the effective date of the Act. The permit requirement does not apply to wildlife rehabilitation centers, facilities operated under a valid license or research facility registration issued by the United States Department of Agriculture.