

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Minimal fiscal impact, no statement issued

Action: Do Pass as Amended and Be Printed Engrossed

Vote: 5 - 3 - 0

Yeas: Bailey, Barnhart, Jenson, Smith J., Cannon

Nays: Bentz, Boone, Gilliam

Exc.: 0

Prepared By: Beth Patrino, Administrator

Meeting Dates: 5/12, 5/26

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Adds members of order Crocodylia to definition of exotic animal. Removes “any wolf” from definition of exotic animal. Exempts certain agencies, persons and organizations from permit requirement. Prohibits breeding of exotic animals. Provides exemption for persons breeding small exotic cats if persons are exempt from permit requirement, have a permit to keep the animals and document that offspring are for retail sale, or they breed small exotic cats with domestic cats. Allows Department of Agriculture (ODA) to issue permits to keep exotic animals if application is made before Act takes effect, within 90 days of effective date of the Act, or within one year if applicant possessed animal prior to effective date of the Act. Allows ODA to issue permits to keep exotic animals to persons who operated facility under valid license or research facility registration issued by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) if person does not renew license or registration. Requires application within 90 days of renewal date of license or registration.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Animal welfare, public safety and law enforcement related to exotic animals
- Use of helper monkeys by disabled persons
- Permit exemptions
- What happens to animals in care of USDA licensees who do not renew federal license

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: Deletes permit exemption for wildlife sanctuaries. Limits exemption for housing of exotic animals by exotic animal protection organizations to 30 days or less at the request of state or state agency. Exempts from permit requirement persons or organizations who take in exotic animals in emergency situation for not more than 48 hours, during which time good faith effort is made to contact law enforcement agency, ODA or wildlife rehabilitation center. Exempts from permit requirement person with disability who possesses service monkey.

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 animals, people are required to apply for and be issued a permit from ODA unless they qualify for an exemption.

Senate Bill 391B begins a phase-out of the state permitting program. The measure allows ODA to issue permits during the first 90 days after the Act’s effective date, and allows exceptions for up to one year only for persons who possessed exotic animals prior to the effective date of the Act. The measure also allows ODA to issue permits to persons who have been licensed or registered by the USDA but do not renew such license or registration.