

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: 3/19, 3/26

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Creates the Task Force on Geese Control (Task Force) to study issues raised by the increasing number of various species of geese and make recommendations as to how to control geese population and its impacts. Requires that Speaker of the House of Representatives and President of the Senate each appoint one legislator to serve on the Task Force. Requires that the Director of the State Fish and Wildlife Department (ODFW) appoint nine other members. Requires ODFW to provide staff support and all other agencies to assist the Task Force in performing their duties by providing advice and furnishing information. Requires the Task Force to report back to the Legislature no later than November 1, 2010. Sunsets at the beginning of the next regular biennial legislative session. Declares an emergency, takes effect on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Economic and safety impacts created by large flocks of geese
- Task Force as a forum to work out issues and report proposals to the Legislature
- Need for harmony between federal and state regulations

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: Requires that one of the nine members appointed to the Task Force by ODFW represent aviation. Expands requirement that Task Force recommendations include the impact of geese populations.

BACKGROUND: There are 11 subspecies of Canada geese, of which seven are found in Oregon. These include the dusky, Taverner's, lesser, cackling, Vancouver, Western, and occasionally, the Aleutian. Geese are attracted to open water and can do significant damage to recreational areas like farms, golf courses, and parks. Their feces can spread disease; public health officials have been known to close beaches due to contamination from excessive goose droppings. Large numbers of geese at airports can create a serious threat to aviation safety. Geese can also be aggressive during nesting and brood rearing season.

The Migratory Bird Treaty Act (1918) covers all migratory birds under federal management authority. Primary regulatory authority resides with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service. States have an opportunity to share information and make recommendations through a Flyway Council system.

3/30/2009 1:40:00 PM

This summary has not been adopted or officially endorsed by action of the committee.