

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Minimal fiscal impact, no statement issued

Action: Do Pass with amendments to the A-Engrossed Measure. (Printed B-Engrossed)

Vote: 5 - 0 - 0

Yeas: Hass, Olsen, Prozanski, Thomsen, Dingfelder

Nays: 0

Exc.: 0

Prepared By: Beth Patrino, Administrator

Meeting Dates: 4/28, 5/12

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Permits officer to issue written notification to any person who places, scatters, or stores food, garbage or other attractant so as to knowingly constitute a lure, attraction, or enticement for bear, cougar, coyote or wolf. Requires person receiving notification to remove food, garbage, or other attractant as directed. Does not apply to activities related to agricultural, ranching or forestry operations or feeding with State Fish and Wildlife Director's approval under specified circumstances. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Feeding bears in Lincoln County
- Lack of existing legal mechanisms to direct person to stop feeding wildlife
- Potential risks to both humans and wildlife from feeding wildlife

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: Adds coyotes to list of potentially habituated wildlife and adds forestry operations to list of activities to which bill does not apply.

BACKGROUND: The Lincoln County District Attorney's Office requested this bill because of a series of incidents involving a Lincoln County woman who, repeatedly and consistently over a period of time, provided food to black bears on her property. The bears caused damage to the property of several of the woman's neighbors. House Bill 2175 B would authorize officers to issue written notifications requiring the removal of food, garbage or other attractants set out for bears, cougars, coyotes or wolves.