

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Fiscal statement issued

Action: Do Pass and Be Referred to the Committee on Ways and Means by Prior Reference

Vote: 8 - 0 - 0

Yeas: Barnhart, Berger, Freeman, Garrett, Holvey, Wingard, Hunt, Olson

Nays: -

Exc.: -

Prepared By: Jim Stenbridge, Administrator

Meeting Dates: 4/25, 6/1

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Requires applications for State Fish and Wildlife Commission licenses, tags, and permits to have a separate section where applicants can make voluntary contributions to be used for predatory animal control to the extent allowed under federal and state law. Establishes Wildlife Conservation Fund continuously appropriated to the State Fish and Wildlife Commission for holding contributions and distributing contributions to counties for predatory animal control programs.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Need for livestock protection
- Expenses of predatory animal control programs and reductions in funding
- Definition of “predatory”, species listed in statute, and absence of California sea lions from the list
- Annual number of hunting license, tag, and permit applications
- Voluntary nature of the contribution
- Proportional distribution of funding
- Cost of administering the program

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

BACKGROUND: Current statute (ORS 610.002) defines predatory animals to be feral swine, coyotes, rabbits, rodents, and birds that are or may be destructive to agriculture, but excluding game birds and other birds determined by the State Fish and Wildlife Commission to be in need of protection. For House Bill 3636, predatory animals also include black bear, cougar, grey wolves, and other fur-bearing mammals (beaver, bobcat, fisher, marten, mink, muskrat, otter, raccoon, red fox, and gray fox).