

REVENUE: Revenue statement issued

FISCAL: Fiscal statement issued

Action:	Do Pass as Amended and Be Printed Engrossed and Be Referred to the Committee on Revenue by prior reference and Be Further Referred to the Committee on Ways and Means
Vote:	8 - 0 - 0
Yeas:	Boone, Cowan, Jenson, Johnson, Schaufler, Sprenger, Clem, Esquivel
Nays:	0
Exc.:	0
Prepared By:	Beth Herzog, Administrator
Meeting Dates:	2/2, 2/9

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Establishes credit against income taxes for current market value of any livestock that belongs to taxpayer and is killed by wolf or cougar. Establishes taxpayer must submit evidence that includes finding by Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department) or by peace officer that wolf or cougar depredation was probable cause of loss. Stipulates tax credit be reduced by any amount taxpayer has already received as compensation for killed livestock. Establishes if tax credit exceeds taxes for year amount of excess shall be refunded to taxpayer. Applies to tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2012. Takes effect on 91st day following adjournment sine die.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Definition of predator
- Process for determining if livestock was killed by cattle

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: Removes definition of predator. Stipulates tax credit is allowed for current market value of any livestock killed by wolf or cougar. Establishes taxpayer must submit evidence that includes finding by Department or by peace officer that wolf or cougar depredation was probable cause of loss. Establishes if tax credit exceeds taxes for year amount of excess shall be refunded to taxpayer.

BACKGROUND: In 2010, there were at least 14 known adult wolves residing in Oregon. In 2005, the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission adopted a Wolf Conservation and Management Plan to “ensure the conservation of gray wolves as required by Oregon law while protecting the social and economic interests of all Oregonians.” The plan includes provisions for monitoring and managing populations, developing education and communication programs, and responding to wolf interactions with wildlife, humans, and livestock. The 2011 Legislature passed House Bill 3560 which created the Wolf Compensation and Proactive management Fund (Fund). The Department of Agriculture (ODA) finalized administrative rules for the Fund at the end of 2011. Moving forward, interested counties will establish county advisory committees, programs and a compensation plan. Once these elements are in place, counties can submit grant applications to ODA. The deadline for this round of grant applications is February 15, 2012. The soonest ODA can fund approved county requests is March, 2012.

House Bill 4005A establishes a tax credit for the owner of livestock that is verifiably killed by a wolf or cougar. The Act stipulates that the tax credit must be reduced by any amount that the taxpayer has already received as compensation for the killed livestock.