

House Bill 4119

Sponsored by Representative SPRENGER; Representatives BREWER, CONGER, HUFFMAN, JOHNSON, OLSON, PARRISH, SCHAUFLER, SHEEHAN, WEIDNER, WHISNANT, WINGARD (Presession filed.)

SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced**.

Requires State Department of Fish and Wildlife to recommend rules to State Fish and Wildlife Commission regarding creation of pilot program that allows persons to use dogs to hunt or pursue cougars. Allows commission to adopt rules to create and implement pilot program. Requires persons to possess certain permits and tags to use dogs to hunt or pursue cougars. Allows county governing body to request inclusion in pilot program. Directs department to report to commission and Eightieth Legislative Assembly.

Sunset January 2, 2020.

Declares emergency, effective on passage.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1
2 Relating to cougars; declaring an emergency; and providing for criminal sentence reduction that
3 requires approval by a two-thirds majority.

4 **Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:**

5 **SECTION 1. Sections 2 to 4 of this 2012 Act are added to and made a part of ORS chapter**
6 **498.**

7 **SECTION 2. (1) The State Department of Fish and Wildlife, after consultation with the**
8 **governing bodies of counties pursuant to section 3 of this 2012 Act, shall recommend rules**
9 **to the State Fish and Wildlife Commission regarding the creation of a pilot program for se-**
10 **lect cougar management zones in which one or more dogs may be used to hunt or pursue**
11 **cougars. The pilot program's primary goals are to reduce cougar conflicts and to assess**
12 **cougar populations.**

13 **(2) The commission may by rule create a pilot program allowing persons to use one or**
14 **more dogs to hunt or pursue cougars, including but not limited to specifying hunting seasons**
15 **or pursuit seasons in the cougar management zones described in subsection (1) of this sec-**
16 **tion.**

17 **(3) Any rules adopted by the commission to create a pilot program allowing for the**
18 **hunting or pursuit of cougars using one or more dogs under this section must ensure that**
19 **all hunts and pursuits are:**

20 **(a) Designed to reduce cougar conflicts;**

21 **(b) Reflective of the most current cougar population data; and**

22 **(c) Designed to generate data that are necessary for the department to satisfy the re-**
23 **porting requirements of section 4 of this 2012 Act.**

24 **(4) A person may not use one or more dogs to hunt or pursue cougars unless the person**
25 **is in possession of such valid permits and tags as the commission issues pursuant to sub-**
26 **section (5) of this section.**

27 **(5)(a) Subject to the requirements of paragraph (b) of this subsection, the commission**

NOTE: Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter *[italic and bracketed]* is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 shall establish by rule the terms and conditions of permits and tags for persons desiring to
2 use one or more dogs to hunt or pursue cougars.

3 (b)(A) The annual fee for residents for a permit and tag may not exceed \$100.

4 (B) The annual fee for nonresidents for a permit and tag may not exceed \$300.

5 (c) All moneys received by the commission under this subsection shall be paid into the
6 State Wildlife Fund established under ORS 496.300.

7 **SECTION 3.** A county governing body may request inclusion in the pilot program au-
8 thorized by section 2 of this 2012 Act by:

9 (1) Adopting a resolution that requests inclusion in the pilot program described in section
10 2 of this 2012 Act;

11 (2) Documenting the need to participate in the pilot program described in section 2 of this
12 2012 Act by identifying the extent of cougar conflicts in the categories of human safety,
13 livestock losses, pet depredations or big game population management objectives; and

14 (3) Demonstrating that existing cougar management actions or other existing wildlife
15 management tools have not been sufficient to manage cougars in that county.

16 **SECTION 4.** (1) After the culmination of any pilot program described in section 2 of this
17 2012 Act, the State Department of Fish and Wildlife shall report to the State Fish and
18 Wildlife Commission and the Eightieth Legislative Assembly, providing:

19 (a) A summary of how the pilot program aided in the collection of data useful for making
20 future wildlife management decisions; and

21 (b) A recommendation as to whether the pilot program would serve as a model for ef-
22 fective cougar management in the future.

23 (2) The report required by this section must be completed in collaboration with the
24 counties that choose to participate in the pilot program pursuant to section 3 of this 2012
25 Act.

26 **SECTION 5.** Sections 2 to 4 of this 2012 Act are repealed on January 2, 2020.

27 **SECTION 6.** This 2012 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public
28 peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2012 Act takes effect
29 on its passage.

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