

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Minimal fiscal impact, no statement issued

Action:	Do Pass as Amended and Be Printed Engrossed
Vote:	9 - 0 - 0
Yeas:	Clem, Esquivel, Krieger, McKeown, Reardon, Thompson, Unger, Whitsett, Witt
Nays:	0
Exc.:	0
Prepared By:	Beth Patrino, Administrator
Meeting Dates:	2/26, 3/14

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Repeals sunset on provisions specifying how Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) appoints person to act as agent for purpose of using one or more dogs to hunt or pursue black bear or cougar. Requires Fish and Wildlife Commission to report biennially to Governor and Legislature on ODFW's appointment of agents. Report must include information on use of agents in implementing any black bear or cougar management program and summary of public input taken by ODFW.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- 1994 ballot measure
- Oregon Cougar Management Plan
- Since 2007, ODFW has appointed 27 individuals as agents

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: Requires Fish and Wildlife Commission to report biennially to Governor and Legislature on ODFW's appointment of agents. Report must include information on use of agents in implementing any black bear or cougar management program and summary of public input taken by ODFW.

BACKGROUND: Oregon Ballot Measure 18 (1994) banned the use of dogs to hunt or pursue black bears or cougars with two exceptions for their use by employees or agents of the county, state or federal agencies while acting in their official capacities. However, the measure did not clearly authorize ODFW to designate agents. In 2007, the Legislative Assembly specifically authorized the appointment of agents by passage of House Bill 2971. The provisions of this statute are scheduled to sunset on January 2, 2014. House Bill 2390 A would remove the sunset and require a biennial report to the Governor and Legislature on the use of agents.