

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Minimal fiscal impact, no statement issued

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| Action: | Do Pass as Amended and Be Printed Engrossed |
| Vote: | 6 - 2 - 1 |
| Yeas: | Clem, Esquivel, Krieger, McKeown, Thompson, Witt |
| Nays: | Reardon, Unger |
| Exc.: | Whitsett |
| Prepared By: | Beth Patrino, Administrator |
| Meeting Dates: | 4/2, 4/16 |

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Exempts county from applicability of statute banning use of dogs to hunt cougars if voters approve county measure proposed by initiative petition or referred to people by governing body of county. Specifies exemption does not affect authority of Fish and Wildlife Commission to manage cougars in county under any other provision of wildlife laws. Requires exempt county to notify state Department of Fish and Wildlife.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- 1994 ballot measure
- Cougar population levels
- Cougar management tools
- Effect of increasing cougar population on deer and elk populations

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: Replaces measure.

BACKGROUND: Oregon Ballot Measure 18 (1994) banned the use of dogs to hunt or pursue black bears or cougars with two exceptions for employees or agents of county, state or federal agencies acting in their official capacities. House Bill 2624 A allows the use of dogs to hunt cougars in a county if voters in that county approve a local ballot measure exempting the county from the ban.