

A-Engrossed
House Bill 2390

Ordered by the House March 15
Including House Amendments dated March 15

Introduced and printed pursuant to House Rule 12.00. Pre-session filed (at the request of Governor John A. Kitzhaber, M.D., for State Department of Fish and Wildlife)

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.

Repeals sunset on provisions that allow State Department of Fish and Wildlife to appoint person to act as agent for purpose of using one or more dogs to hunt or pursue black bear or cougar.

Requires State Fish and Wildlife Commission to make certain reports regarding department's appointment and use of agents.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

Relating to the use of dogs for the management of wildlife; amending ORS 498.164; and repealing section 3, chapter 675, Oregon Laws 2007.

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

SECTION 1. Section 3, chapter 675, Oregon Laws 2007, is repealed.

SECTION 2. ORS 498.164, as amended by section 2, chapter 675, Oregon Laws 2007, is amended to read:

498.164. (1) Except as provided in subsections (2) [*and (3)*] **to (4)** of this section, a person may not use bait to attract or take black bears or use one or more dogs to hunt or pursue black bears or cougars.

(2) Nothing in subsection (1) of this section prohibits the use of bait or one or more dogs by employees or agents of county, state or federal agencies while acting in their official capacities.

(3)(a) As allowed by subsection (2) of this section, the State Department of Fish and Wildlife is authorized to appoint persons to act as agents for the department for the purpose of using one or more dogs to hunt or pursue black bears or cougars. The hunt or pursuit must be in compliance with any black bear management plan and any cougar management plan adopted by rule by the State Fish and Wildlife Commission. An agent acts on the department's behalf and, subject to the department's direction and control, implements specific management programs of the department. An agent may not engage in any other hunting or pursuit while acting on the department's behalf.

(b) The department shall:

(A) Make the appointment in written form; and

(B) Ensure that the written appointment is available to the public for review at the main office of the department in Salem.

(c) Upon appointment of an agent by the department, the department shall fix the compensation of the agent and prescribe the duties of the agent. The authority of the agent to

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 **act is limited to the terms set forth in the written appointment under paragraph (b) of this**
2 **subsection.**

3 **(d) The commission shall adopt by rule a process and criteria for selecting and training**
4 **persons to act as agents pursuant to paragraph (a) of this subsection. The process and cri-**
5 **teria must include, but are not limited to, the qualifications and training for agents and are**
6 **to cover any guidelines, policies or codes of conduct of the department regarding firearms,**
7 **first aid, all-terrain vehicles and snowmobiles and the use of alcohol or drugs. The depart-**
8 **ment may also require fingerprints as specified in ORS 496.121 for the purpose of requesting**
9 **state or nationwide criminal records checks.**

10 [(3)] (4) Nothing in subsection (1) of this section prohibits the use of bait or dogs by persons for
11 the taking of black bears or cougars in accordance with the provisions of ORS 498.012 relating to
12 taking wildlife that is causing damage.

13 [(4)] (5) Any person who violates subsection (1) of this section commits a Class A misdemeanor
14 and, upon conviction, shall in addition to appropriate criminal penalties have his or her privilege
15 to apply for any hunting license suspended for a period of five years for a first offense and perma-
16 nently suspended for any subsequent offense.

17 **(6) The commission shall report biennially pursuant to ORS 496.128 regarding the**
18 **department's appointment and use of agents under this section. The report must include**
19 **information on the use of agents in implementing any black bear management program and**
20 **any cougar management program of the department and a summary of public input taken**
21 **by the department regarding use of the agents.**

22 [(5)] (7) For the purposes of this section, "bait" means any material placed for the purpose of
23 attracting or attempting to attract bears.

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