

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Minimal fiscal impact, no statement issued

Action: Do Pass as Amended and Be Printed Engrossed

Vote: 5 - 0 - 0

Yeas: Bates, Hansell, Hass, Olsen, Dembrow

Nays: 0

Exc.: 0

Prepared By: Beth Reiley, Administrator

Meeting Dates: 2/10, 2/12

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Authorizes Department of Agriculture (ODA) to issue permit for keeping exotic animal to person applying before December 31, 2014, who in addition to meeting other requirements: submits proof pet has been kept in place of control or confinement in Oregon prior to January 1, 2010; pet meets definition of exotic animal; and person has disability and physician has recommended exotic animal to alleviate effects of disability. Authorizes ODA to charge fee not to exceed \$300. Requires ODA to issue or deny exotic animal permit no later than December 1, 2015. Repeals authorization for ODA to issue exotic animal permit on January 2, 2017. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Original legislative phase-out of exotic animal permitting program
- Role of lynx as physician-classified companion animal for Gladstone individual with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: Requires exotic animal to meet statutory definition of exotic animal ORS 609.305 (1). Requires person applying for permit to have disability as described in ORS 659A.104 and physician to recommend keeping exotic animal to alleviate effects of disability.

BACKGROUND: Under current law the term “exotic animal” is defined as any member of the family Felidae (felines), except the domestic cat; non-human primates; non-wolf members of the family Canidae (canines) not indigenous to Oregon, except the domestic dog; and any bear, except the black bear. In 2009, the Legislature passed Senate Bill 391 which started a phase-out of the state exotic animal permitting program. The Department of Agriculture (ODA) was authorized by the Legislature to issue new permits in some form until January 1, 2011.

Senate Bill 1584 A authorizes ODA to issue permits to people meeting certain requirements if they apply prior to December 31, 2014 for keeping an exotic animal. The authority to issue an exotic animal permit is repealed on January 2, 2017.