

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Minimal fiscal impact, no statement issued

Action: Do Pass

Vote: 8 - 0 - 1

Yeas: Esquivel, Frederick, Krieger, Reardon, Thompson, Unger, Whitsett, Witt

Nays: 0

Exc.: Clem

Prepared By: Beth Patrino, Administrator

Meeting Dates: 2/18

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Authorizes Oregon 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:

- 2009 law that began phase-out of exotic animal permits
- Criteria to qualify for permit
- Circumstance of lynx kept by Marine veteran

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

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 Oregon 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 The authority to issue an exotic animal permit is repealed on January 2, 2017.