

**PRELIMINARY STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY****CARRIER:**

Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources

**REVENUE:** Revenue statement issued**FISCAL:** Minimal fiscal impact, no statement issued**SUBSEQUENT REFERRAL TO:****Action:****Vote:****Yeas:****Nays:****Exc.:**Ayes, 56; Nays, 2--Holvey, Nearman;  
Excused, 2**Prepared By:** Beth Reiley, Administrator**Meeting Dates:** 5/27

**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:** Allows for creation of one or more predator damage control district within county where minimum of 50 percent of landowners owning 10 or more acres of agricultural, forestland or mixed farm and forest use lands petition county commissioners. Includes bears, bobcats, and red foxes in definition of predator. Establishes petition filing and hearing requirements. Requires assessment on lands in predator control district not to exceed \$1 per acre or per thousand dollars of assessed value of specified properties. Limits assessment only to 10 acre properties outside of incorporated cities, zoned for farm use, forest use, or mixed farm and forest use. Grants county authority to change boundaries of district to include additional properties. Exempts lands owned by public body from assessment unless public body otherwise agrees. Requires appointment of five member advisory board representing farm, forest and livestock producers to advise county commissioners on district business and report on district predator control efforts. Sunsets Act January 2, 2022.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

**EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:** (Proposed -A3 Amendment) Replaces measure. Allows for creation of one or more predator damage control district (District) within county where minimum of 50 percent of eligible petitioners who cumulatively own more than 50 percent of eligible land within District. Establishes petition and hearing requirement. Requires appointment of advisory board within 30 days of District formation. Authorizes \$1 per acre or \$25 flat rate charge to be incurred by landowner in District for actual cost to county of preventing, reducing and mitigating damage from predatory animals. Requires advisory board to submit annual list to county showing names of landowners who have and have not chosen to incur charges and each tax account for which charge has occurred. Requires governing body of county to certify information from advisory boards and amount of charges to county assessor. Sunsets Act January 2, 2022. Act takes effect 91<sup>st</sup> day after sine die.

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5/27/2015 10:45:00 AM \*

***This summary has not been adopted or officially endorsed by action of the committee.***

**BACKGROUND:** Predator damage control districts established through government entities in response to farmer and rancher concerns for economic losses as a result of predation have been used in some parts of the country as a means to address the issue.

House Bill 3188 A would authorize county commissioners to form predator damage control districts when petitioned by 50 percent of landowners owning 10 or more acres of agricultural, forestland or mixed farm and forest use lands. The Act authorizes a fee not to exceed \$1 per acre or assessed value on properties in predator damage control district and use the funds raised to manage predation within their jurisdiction.