

PRELIMINARY STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: No Revenue Impact

Action Date:

Action:

Meeting Dates:

Prepared By: Paul Siebert, Budget Analyst

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Abolishes Fish and Wildlife Deferred Maintenance Subaccount. Transfers unobligated principal remaining in subaccount to State Wildlife Fund.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Original purpose of Subaccount
- Current needs of ODFW for larger ending balance without increasing hunting and fishing licenses and tags even further.

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

The Fish and Wildlife Deferred Maintenance Subaccount was originally established in response to a financial management audit conducted by the Joint Legislative Audit Committee in 2000. The audit found that cash advances were taken from the Fish Endowment Account to cover cash flow issues in response to lower than expected revenues from licenses and fees. The Fish Endowment Account was intended to cover maintenance of ODFW fish hatcheries and it was found that the account was used as a float to cover cash flow issues for the operation of the agency. The subaccount was established with tighter requirements on the use of the funds, and specifically, required interest to be paid to the subaccount if funds were borrowed for uses outside of those specified, which resulted in the monies not being used by the Department.

House Bill 2452 abolishes the subaccount and transfers unobligated principal and remaining funds to the Fish and Wildlife Fund.