

**PRELIMINARY STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**

CARRIER:

Senate Committee on Human Services and Early Childhood

**REVENUE: No revenue impact****FISCAL: Minimal fiscal impact, no statement issued****SUBSEQUENT REFERRAL TO: None****Action:****Vote:**

Yeas:

Nays:

Exc.:

**Prepared By:** Cheyenne Ross, Administrator**Meeting Dates:** 5/26, 6/2**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:** Prohibits devocalization of dogs and declawing of cats, except under specified circumstances.**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Origination of measure in landlord/tenant law, as prohibition against rental or lease condition
- Appropriateness of location within ORS Title 10 governing property rights and transactions
- Broad support for ban on devocalization; split support for ban on declawing
- Veterinarians' professional discretion and relationships
- Potential for animals to be abandoned or not adopted if owners cannot obtain procedures
- Owners of means will still be able to obtain procedures
- Possibility of adding sunset provision
- Possibility of adding reporting requirement
- Possibility of adding enforcement mechanism

**EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:**

[-A5 amendment] Broadens applicability to more animals. Prohibits procedures outright unless medically necessary.

[-A7 amendment] Same as -A5 with minor change to medical necessity to relieve *physical* illness, disease or injury. Sunsets January 2, 2018.

[-A8 amendment] Broadens applicability to more animals. Prohibits debarking outright except for medical necessity. Adds exception to declaw prohibition for removal of dog's dew claws. Imposes 48-hour waiting period prior to declawing. Permits complaints to OVMA. Requires OVMA report to legislature December 1, 2016. Prohibits declawing outright except for medical necessity, on January 1, 2018.

[-A9 amendment] Almost identical to -A8 except no future outright prohibition against declawing

**BACKGROUND:** "Devocalization" is the severing or removal of an animal's vocal cords. Declawing is accomplished by removing the last bone at the tip of an animal's toe.

House Bill 3494-A bars declawing and devocalization of cats and dogs, respectively, except under certain circumstances