

**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, 6/4**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] Removes cite to statutes governing real property transactions. 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.

[-A12 amendment] Almost identical to -A9 except: incorporates -A7's minor change to medical necessity for declawing to relieve an animal's *physical* illness only; modifies exception to permit declawing for risk/damage to *person* only (not property); removes 48-hour waiting period; removes requirement for OVMA to report to legislature; and adds two new requirements, for the animal's owner to provide a physician's documentation that a severe medical condition is made worse by the animal's clawing, and for veterinarians to verify that previous attempts by owners to modify an animal's clawing behavior have failed.**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.

6/4/2015 11:52:00 AM \*

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