

Seventy-Eighth Oregon Legislative Assembly - 2015 Regular Session
STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY
House Committee On Agriculture and Natural Resources

MEASURE: HB 2534 A
CARRIER: Rep. Witt

Fiscal: Has minimal fiscal impact

Revenue: No Revenue Impact

Action Date: 03/10/15

Action: Do Pass As Amended And Be Printed Engrossed.

Meeting Dates: 02/10, 03/10

Vote:

Yeas: 9 - Barreto, Esquivel, Frederick, Gorsek, Krieger, McKeown, McLain, Whitsett, Witt

Prepared By: Chuck Gallagher, Committee Administrator

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Declares intent of Legislative Assembly to embody sporting ethic of fair chase as it relates to use of drones in pursuit of wildlife. Directs Fish and Wildlife Commission (Commission) to adopt rules prohibiting use of drones for pursuit of wildlife in angling; hunting; trapping; harassing, tracking, locating, or scouting wildlife; or interfering in act of person lawfully engaged in angling, hunting or trapping. Authorizes Commission to include exemptions from prohibition for Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and its agents or contractors or if purpose is to benefit wildlife management or protect property. Defines "drone." Stipulates nothing in the bill is meant to limit use of drones by person lawfully engaged in activities authorized under commercial fishing laws.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Advances in drone technology and cost
- Use of drones for hazing of birds as distinct from hunting
- Background on the notion of "fair chase" in hunting
- Use of drones for Department of Fish and Wildlife study and survey use
- Use of drones in commercial fishing

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:

Replaces measure.

BACKGROUND:

Drone technology has become more affordable in recent years and there is evidence that drones are already being used by some to aid in hunting and fishing activity and by others to interfere with those engaged in lawful hunting and fishing activity. Several states have moved to ban the use of drone technology for such purposes.

House Bill 2534A would direct the Fish and Wildlife Commission to adopt rules prohibiting the use of drones for hunting, angling, harassing and tracking wildlife and interfering with lawful angling or hunting.