

House Committee On Agriculture and Natural Resources

Fiscal: Has minimal fiscal impact
Revenue: No revenue impact, statement issued (Indeterminate Impact)

Action Date: 04/21/15

Action: Do Pass As Amended And Be Printed Engrossed.

Meeting Dates: 04/16, 04/21

Vote:

Yeas: 8 - Barreto, Esquivel, Frederick, Krieger, McKeown, McLain, Whitsett, Witt

Exc: 1 - Gorsek

Prepared By: Chuck Gallagher, Committee Administrator

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Allows for creation of one or more predator 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. Directs that law would be repealed January 2, 2022.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Voluntary opt in predator management district creation
- County predator management budgets
- Predation damages caused to livestock and physical property

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:

Replaces measure.

BACKGROUND:

Predator 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 allow the creation of predator control districts in areas where 50 percent of the agricultural and landowners who own at least 10 acres agree to it. The predator control districts could assess a fee per acre or assessed value on these properties and use the funds raised to manage predation within their jurisdiction.