

Fiscal: Fiscal Impact Issued

Revenue: No Revenue Impact

Action Date: 04/17/15

Action: Do Pass With Different Amendments. (Printed A-Eng Minority)

Meeting Dates: 03/24, 04/17

Signers of the Report: Sen. Jeff Kruse, Sen. Kim Thatcher

Prepared By: Laura Handzel, Administrator

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Creates nine-member Task Force on Illegal Ivory to study and identify scope of illegal ivory sales and possession problem in Oregon. Declares emergency, effective on passage. Sunsets on December 31, 2016.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Need for bill, including discussion of current federal law
- Poaching and Oregon's role
- Ivory, rhino horn, and related products and ties to terrorism, gun trade, and organized crime
- Exemptions provided
- Enforcement challenges
- Illegal trade
- States' roles, as well as New York and New Jersey laws enacted in 2014
- Strengthening of laws against poaching domestically and on international level
- Possible amendments

EFFECT OF MINORITY AMENDMENT:

Creates Task Force on Illegal Ivory (Task Force). Establishes that Task Force is comprised of representatives from Legislature and various stakeholder groups appointed by President of Senate, Senate Minority Leader, Speaker of House of Representatives, Minority Leader of House of Representatives, and Governor. Directs Task Force to study problem of illegal ivory sales and possession in Oregon to determine scope. Declares emergency, effective immediately on passage.

BACKGROUND:

African elephants and other animals such as the rhinoceros have long been hunted for their ivory tusks and teeth or horns, directly leading to significant declines in their populations. Despite decades of international and domestic intervention, populations continue to decline. Consequently, in early 2014, the Interior Department's Fish and Wildlife Service announced a virtual ban with a few exceptions on the trade of ivory within the United States. The United States maintains the second largest market for ivory in the world.

Current Oregon law does not regulate this type of animal parts trafficking. Senate Bill 913-MRA creates the Task Force on Illegal Ivory (Task Force). The Task Force comprises representatives from the Legislature and various stakeholder groups to be appointed by the President of the Senate, the Senate Minority Leader, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Minority Leader of the House of Representatives, and the Governor. Senate Bill 913-MRA directs the Task Force to study the problem of illegal ivory sales and possession in Oregon to determine the scope of the problem. The bill declares an emergency and is effective immediately. It contains a sunset of December 31, 2016.