

STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

CARRIER: Sen. Olsen

Senate Committee On Environment and Natural Resources

Fiscal: Has minimal fiscal impact

Revenue: No Revenue Impact

Action Date: 04/27/15

Action: Do Pass The A-Eng Bill.

Meeting Dates: 04/27

Vote:

Yeas: 4 - Dembrow, Edwards, Olsen, Prozanski

Exc: 1 - Thomsen

Prepared By: Beth Reiley, Committee Administrator

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Requires State 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.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Would not apply to wildlife photography
- Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife would be allowed to use technology to carry out duties
- Other states considering similar legislation

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

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.