

Fiscal: Has minimal fiscal impact

Revenue: No Revenue Impact

Action Date: 05/05/15

Action: Do Pass.

Meeting Dates: 05/05

Vote:

Yeas: 3 - Burdick, Gelser, Prozanski

Nays: 2 - Kruse, Thatcher

Prepared By: Laura Handzel, Administrator

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Allows action to enjoin or restrain nuisance if place is used for certain crimes against animals.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Support for bill from Oregon Humane Society, Oregon District Attorneys Association, Oregon Veterinary Medical Association, and Animal Legal Defense Fund
- Existing nuisance law
- Civil remedy as an enforcement tool
- Oregon right-to-farm law
- Exemptions for good animal husbandry practices

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Current Oregon law contains provisions to address the abatement of nuisance activities or conditions. (ORS 105.550 through ORS 105.600.) Places and activities addressed under current law include prostitution; patronizing a prostitute; gambling; lottery; properties determined not fit for use and in need of decontamination; as well as any place involving the unauthorized delivery, manufacturing or possession of a controlled substance.

House Bill 2888 adds any place used for crimes against animals to the existing list of activities that may be addressed as a nuisance through civil abatement. The crimes addressed by House Bill 2888 include animal fighting (with specific provisions for dogfighting and cockfighting); breeding operations with over 50 animals; and other incidents of animal abuse including animal cruelty, torture, sexual assault, abandonment and neglect.