

Fiscal: Has minimal fiscal impact

Revenue: No Revenue Impact

Action Date: 05/07/15

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

Meeting Dates: 04/30, 05/07

Vote:

Yeas: 5 - Dembrow, Gelser, Kruse, Monnes Anderson, Olsen

Prepared By: Cheyenne Ross, Committee Administrator

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Permits Department of Human Services (DHS) social workers to report suspected animal abuse or neglect as function of their employment. Provides immunity for social workers acting in good faith. Applies retroactively.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Assistance provided law enforcement by Oregon Humane Society
- Encouraging social workers to report suspected animal abuse
- Content of amendment

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:

Removes references to animal rescue entities.

BACKGROUND:

The Oregon Humane Society reports that there have been several instances where social workers, through the regular course of their work, have reported suspected animal abuse to local agencies that enforce animal welfare laws.

House Bill 2694-A allows, but does not require, Department of Human Services (DHS) social workers to report animal abuse or neglect in their professional capacity without liability when they are acting in good faith.