

## STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

## Senate Committee On Environment and Natural Resources

**Fiscal:** Has minimal fiscal impact**Revenue:** No revenue impact, statement issued (Indeterminate Impact)**Action Date:** 06/01/15**Action:** Do Pass With Amendments To The A-Eng. Refer To Finance And Revenue.  
(Printed B-Eng).**Meeting Dates:** 05/27, 06/01**Vote:**

Yeas: 4 - Dembrow, Edwards, Prozanski, Thomsen

Exc: 1 - Olsen

**Prepared By:** Beth Reiley, Committee Administrator

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

Allows establishment of one or more predator damage control districts (District) within county to fund county services to prevent, reduce and mitigate damage to property from predatory animals. Formation of District may be initiated by petition signed by minimum of 50 percent of eligible petitioners who cumulatively own more than 50 percent of eligible land within proposed District. Establishes petition and hearing requirements. Requires appointment of advisory board within 30 days of District formation and sets membership requirements. Authorizes \$1 per acre annual charge or \$25 flat rate annual charge to be incurred by landowner in District for actual cost to county of preventing, reducing and mitigating damage from predatory animals. Requires advisory board to submit annual list to county showing names of landowners who have and have not chosen to incur charges and each tax account for which charge has occurred. Requires governing body of county to certify information from advisory boards and amount of charges to county assessor. Sunsets Act January 2, 2022. Act takes effect 91<sup>st</sup> day after sine die.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Landowners can choose to opt into predator damage control district
- Declining county funding for predator management
- Role of predators in ecosystem

**EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:**

Replaces measure.

**BACKGROUND:**

In some parts of the country, predator damage control districts have been established by government entities to address farmer and rancher concerns for economic losses resulting from predation.

House Bill 3188 B would authorize county commissioners to form predator damage control districts (Districts) when petitioned by a minimum of 50 percent of the eligible petitioners who cumulatively own more than 50 percent of eligible land within the District. The Act authorizes the District to charge landowners a fee for the actual cost to the county of preventing, reducing and mitigating damage from predatory animals.