

STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**Senate Committee On Judiciary****Fiscal:** Fiscal impact issued**Revenue:** No Revenue Impact**Action Date:** 06/03/15**Action:** Do Pass With Amendments. Refer To Ways And Means By Prior Reference
(Printed A-Eng).**Meeting Dates:** 05/21, 06/03**Vote:**

Yeas: 5 - Burdick, Gelser, Kruse, Prozanski, Thatcher

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WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Adds threatening to cause physical injury to animal to induce other person to engage in certain conduct as conduct constituting crime of coercion. Requires courts to impose minimum term of incarceration for initiating false report under certain circumstances.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Link between domestic violence and animal abuse
- Statistics and studies on domestic violence and animal abuse
- Animal abuse as an indicator of violence
- Cross-training
- Importance of companion animals to domestic violence victims
- Lack of domestic violence shelters able to accommodate companion animals
- Barriers to prosecution
- Strength of Oregon's animal protection laws
- Inclusion of farmed animals
- Good animal husbandry practices
- Provisions of measure
- Effects of amendments

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:

Requires courts to impose a term of incarceration of at least 10 days for initiating false report under ORS 162.375, should false report involve deployment of law enforcement special weapons and tactical (SWAT) team or other similar law enforcement group.

BACKGROUND:

Multiple studies show a direct link between violence against animals and violence against humans, especially within the context of domestic violence where abusers use animals – specifically the threat of harming an animal – as a means of achieving submission. House Bill 3468-A makes it a crime of coercion when one compels or induces another person to engage in certain conduct by instilling fear that they will cause physical injury to an animal.

Several news reports in recent months have reported an increase in people tricking emergency services into dispatching emergency responses based on a false report of an ongoing critical incident. House Bill 3468-A requires courts to impose a term of incarceration of at least 10 days for initiating a false report under ORS 162.375 when the false report involves the deployment of a law enforcement special weapons and tactical (SWAT) team or other similar law enforcement group.