

STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: No Revenue Impact

Action Date: 06/24/15

Action: Do Pass The A-Eng Bill.

Meeting Dates: 06/24

Vote:

Senate

Yeas: 12 - Burdick, Devlin, Girod, Hansell, Johnson, Monroe, Roblan, Shields, Steiner Hayward, Thomsen, Whitsett, Winters

House

Yeas: 12 - Buckley, Gomberg, Huffman, Komp, McLane, Nathanson, Rayfield, Read, Smith, Whisnant, Whitsett, Williamson

Prepared By: Linda Gilbert, Budget Analyst

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:

None.

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

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 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 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.