

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Minimal fiscal impact, no statement issued

Action:

Vote:

Yeas:

Nays:

Exc.:

Prepared By: Erin Seiler, Administrator

Meeting Dates: 225

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Increases penalties for unlawful taking or killing of certain wildlife. Requires Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission (Commission) to revoke all licenses, tags and permits issued pursuant to wildlife laws for certain offenses. Prohibits person from applying for or obtaining license, tag or permit if such license, tag or permit is revoked for second time in ten-year period. Requires court to order seizure or forfeiture of all guns, boats, vehicles, traps and other implements used in committing offense upon third conviction within ten-year period for violation of provision of wildlife laws or rule adopted pursuant to wildlife laws. Specifies that each taking or killing of single animal constitutes separate unlawful taking or killing. Prohibits person from removing and utilizing only paws, gallbladder, sex organs or bones from carcass of black bear or cougar or eggs from carcass of sturgeon, salmon or steelhead unless engaged in lawful trapping activities or utilizing game mammals or game birds declared by Commission rule to be inedible. Precludes violation if taking or killing occurred unintentionally when engaged in otherwise lawful activity. Adds gray wolf to list of game mammals for which Commission may institute suit for recovery of damages for unlawful taking or killing of wildlife.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:

BACKGROUND: Poaching is the unlawful taking or killing of wildlife in violation of local, state, federal or international law. Activities that are considered poaching include killing an animal out of season, without a license, with a prohibited weapon or in a prohibited manner. Killing a protected species, exceeding one's bag limit or killing an animal while trespassing may also be considered poaching.

Oregon is one of two states in which fish and wildlife enforcement is located within the Oregon State Police (OSP). The purpose of the OSP Fish and Wildlife Division is to ensure compliance with the laws and regulations that protect and enhance the long-term health and equitable utilization of Oregon's fish and wildlife resources. The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) is the primary partner of OSP's Fish and Wildlife Division. ODFW sets fish and wildlife resource management goals and, with OSP involvement, develops regulations to achieve those management goals and objectives. OSP assures compliance with the regulations to achieve resource management goals. House Bill 4046-B increases penalties for unlawful taking or killing of certain wildlife and prohibit the removal or utilization of certain animal parts.

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This summary has not been adopted or officially endorsed by action of the committee.