

HB 3232 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Agriculture and Natural Resources

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Meeting Dates: 3/14

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Requires authorization by Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission (Commission) prior to introduction of wildlife species into range outside species' range at time of introduction. Directs Commission to adopt rules determining whether introduction of population is essential to continuing existence of species, according to best available scientific information; establishing management restrictions and protections related to introduced population; and establishing process for periodic review and evaluation of success or failure of the release. Requires Commission to give notice to members of Legislative Assembly representing affected districts of intention to undertake such rulemaking and prescribes rules for notification. Directs Commission and Oregon Fish and Wildlife Department to engage in federal rulemaking processes whenever any federal agency is introducing or reintroducing populations of wildlife species into Oregon. Applies to any introduction of wildlife species that occurs on or after effective date of Act.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

BACKGROUND:

The Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission (Commission) is authorized to acquire, introduce, propagate and stock wildlife species in such manner as the Commission determines will carry out the state wildlife policy and management programs (ORS 496.146).

In the event the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission introduces a population of wildlife species into an area of the state that is outside the species' current range, House Bill 3232 would require the Commission to adopt certain rules, including a scientific determination of whether introduction of the species is essential to its continued existence, establishment of management restrictions and protections and establishment of a periodic review process to evaluate the success or failure of the release of the species. The bill would also require the Commission and the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Department to take part in federal rulemaking processes when any federal agency is introducing or reintroducing a wildlife species into the state of Oregon.