

**HB 2637 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**

**House Committee On Judiciary**

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**Prepared By:** Josh Nasbe, Counsel

**Meeting Dates:** 3/29

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

Creates crime of animal abuse in the third degree. Classifies as Class C misdemeanor, punishable by up to 30 days' imprisonment, \$1,250 fine, or both.

*REVENUE: May have revenue impact, but no statement yet issued*

*FISCAL: May have fiscal impact, but no statement yet issued*

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

**EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:**

No amendment.

**BACKGROUND:**

House Bill 2637 would add animal abuse in the third degree to existing animal abuse crimes: aggravated animal abuse in the first degree under ORS 167.322, animal abuse in the first degree under ORS 167.320 and animal abuse in the second degree under ORS 167.315. The crime of aggravated animal abuse in the first degree, a Class C felony, is committed when a person tortures or maliciously kills an animal. The crime of animal abuse in the first degree, a Class C felony or Class A misdemeanor depending on the circumstances, is committed when a person cruelly causes the death of, or causes serious physical injury to, an animal. The crime of animal abuse in the second degree, a Class C felony or Class A misdemeanor depending on the circumstances, is committed when a person recklessly causes physical injury to an animal. House Bill 2637 creates the Class C misdemeanor crime of animal abuse in the third degree, for recklessly creating a substantial risk of physical injury to an animal.