

HB 3158 -2 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Agriculture and Natural Resources

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Meeting Dates: 3/23, 4/13

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Authorizes Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission to implement a program to encourage persons to report violations of wildlife laws. Offers incentives to report violations that lead to successful prosecution that include free controlled hunt tags for species and in unit that wildlife was unlawfully taken or killed.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Overview of poaching in Oregon
- Financial incentives vs. preference points for tags

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-2 Removes provision to offer free controlled hunt tags for reporting violations of wildlife laws where report results in successful prosecution. Specifies Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission shall implement program to encourage reporting that includes offer of preference points toward future hunting tags or cash reward, for information leading to citations or arrest for unlawful take, possession or waste of wildlife species.

BACKGROUND:

Several states, including Oregon, offer cash rewards for reporting wildlife poachers. The state of Washington offers points that greatly increase a person's chances of drawing special permits for hunting. Oregon is also a part of the Interstate Wildlife Violator Compact, a reciprocal agreement between 30 states in which the suspension or revocation of licenses or permits in one state is honored in all compact states.

House Bill 3158 authorizes Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission to implement a program to encourage persons to report violations of wildlife laws. Incentives to report violations that lead to successful prosecution include offering free controlled hunt tags for species that was unlawfully taken or killed.