

HB 3158 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Environment and Natural Resources

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Meeting Dates: 5/8, 5/11

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Directs the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission to implement a program to encourage persons to report violations of wildlife laws by offering preference points toward future hunting tags or cash reward for information leading to citations or arrest for unlawful take, possession or waste of specified wildlife species.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Poaching data
- Anti-poaching program in Utah providing incentives to hunters to report poaching

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

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 3158A would direct the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission to implement a program to encourage persons to report violations of wildlife laws. The program would encourage the reporting of violations by offering preference points toward future hunting tags or a cash reward, when information leads to citations or arrest for the unlawful take, possession or waste of antelope, bear, cougar, deer, elk, moose, mountain goat, mountain sheep or wolf.