

SB 71 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Business and General Government

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Meeting Dates: 1/29, 3/5

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Allows specified individuals to administer sedative and analgesic medications when euthanizing animals.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Role of sedatives and analgesic medications in ensuring a pain and stress-free death
- Statutory obstacles for humane society or animal control agency to obtaining sedative and analgesic medications

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

The Oregon Veterinary Medical Examining Board (VMEB) was established in 1903 to test, license, monitor, and regulate the practitioners of veterinary medicine in the state. The board's mission is to protect animal health and welfare, public health, and consumers of veterinary services.

Current statute allows a humane society or animal control agency registered with the State Board of Pharmacy or an individual certified by the VMEB to euthanize animals using sodium pentobarbital. Senate Bill 71 allows those groups or individuals to administer sedatives and analgesic medications when euthanizing animals. Proponents for pre-euthanasia sedation and analgesics claim those medications make the process less painful for the animal and less traumatic for the animal owner.