

## **HB 2746 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**

### **House Committee On Natural Resources**

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**Prepared By:** Kailey Kornhauser, LPRO Analyst

**Sub-Referral To:** Joint Committee On Ways and Means

**Meeting Dates:** 2/26

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#### **WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

Requires Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department) to prepare a biennial report that estimates net change in wolf population during the preceding two-year period. Requires Department to submit report to Legislative Assembly and post report publicly on Department website. Requires Legislative Assembly identify amount of state funding necessary to assist counties in carrying out wolf predation loss compensation program based on population report provided by Department. Requires Legislative Assembly, to extent practicable, to establish appropriation greater than amount identified to assist counties. Requires Legislative Assembly, to extent practicable, to direct 30 percent or more of appropriation be expended for financial assistance to persons implementing livestock management techniques or nonlethal wolf deterrence designed to discourage wolf depredation of livestock.

*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:**

Prior to 2011, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service published an annual report on gray wolf populations in Oregon. Since 2011, the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department) has produced an annual population report on gray wolves. As of 2017, there were a minimum of 124 gray wolves reported in Oregon.

In 2011, the Legislative Assembly enacted House Bill 2350, which directed the Oregon Department of Agriculture to establish and implement a wolf depredation compensation and financial assistance grant program. Funds from this grant program are awarded to counties to pay persons who suffer loss or injury to livestock or working dogs due to wolf depredation, persons who implement livestock management techniques or nonlethal wolf deterrence techniques, and to pay for the implementation and administrative costs of county wolf depredation compensation programs.

House Bill 2746 would require the Department to prepare a publicly-available biennial report that estimates net change in Oregon wolf populations, would require the Legislative Assembly to identify the amount of state funding needed, and to establish an appropriation greater than the amount needed, to assist counties in carrying out a wolf predation loss compensation program, and would require that a minimum of 30 percent of the appropriation be expended for implementation of livestock management techniques or nonlethal wolf deterrence.