

HB 3087 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Natural Resources

Action Date: 04/09/19

Action: Do pass with amendments and be referred to Ways and Means by prior reference.
(Printed A-Eng.)

Vote: 7-0-0-0

Yeas: 7 - Barreto, Gorsek, McKeown, Reardon, Smith DB, Sprenger, Witt

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: No revenue impact

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Meeting Dates: 4/2, 4/9

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Requires Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) to establish anti-poaching awareness program to: increase public awareness; increase reporting of poaching and related activities; increase law enforcement of poaching; and promote consistent prosecution and punishment of poaching. Authorizes ODFW to adopt rules to implement anti-poaching awareness program. Appropriates \$_____ from General Fund to ODFW for anti-poaching awareness program. Establishes specific wildlife violations as Class A, punishable by a fine of \$2,000, if committed without a culpable mental state. Establishes that unlawful taking of wildlife by an outfitter or guide; unlawful taking of more than 100 wildlife; and the second and subsequent unlawful taking with intent to sell, barter, trade, import, export, or otherwise exchange wildlife is a Class C felony, if committed with a culpable mental state. Clarifies ODFW use of drones in prevention or detection of poaching. Requires Attorney General make one or more employees of Department of Justice available to local government to assist prosecuting violations of wildlife law relating to poaching. Declares emergency, effective July 1, 2019.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Economic impact of poaching
- 2017 budget note to develop report on anti-poaching campaign
- Public reporting of poaching

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

Replaces the measure.

BACKGROUND:

The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) is responsible for sustainably managing fish and wildlife in Oregon. The Oregon State Police, Fish and Wildlife Division, plays a key role in achieving ODFW's mission through enforcement of fish and wildlife regulations. The Division is comprised of 120 sworn officers assigned statewide with specific duties and responsibilities to ensure compliance with natural resource laws. The Division attends various meetings, gives presentations to sporting enthusiast groups, educates students of all ages, assists with hunter education classes and field days, and shows support at angling derbies and other outdoor-related events.

House Bill 3087 A would require the ODFW to establish an anti-poaching awareness program.