

SB 723 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Carrier: Sen. Dembrow

Senate Committee On Judiciary

Action Date: 04/04/19

Action: Do pass with amendments. (Printed A-Eng.)

Vote: 5-2-0-0

Yeas: 5 - Fagan, Gelser, Manning Jr, Prozanski, Thatcher

Nays: 2 - Bentz, Linthicum

Fiscal: Has minimal fiscal impact

Revenue: No revenue impact

Prepared By: Michael Lantz, Counsel

Meeting Dates: 2/28, 4/4

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Prohibits coyote hunting contests, competitions, tournaments, or derbies for prizes or other inducement. Provides that hunter must forfeit remains of coyote killed during prohibited event to State Department of Fish and Wildlife. Makes violation a Class A violation. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Predator hunting regulations
- Scientific data on predator removal
- Impacts of coyotes on farmers
- Effect of amendments

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

Replaces the measure.

BACKGROUND:

Coyotes are defined as predatory animals. ORS 610.002. The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) estimates that there are 300,000 coyotes in Oregon. Coyotes are not a protected species and the hunting of coyotes is not regulated by ODFW. Coyotes can be killed on an owner's land without a hunting permit and on public land with a permit. There is currently no limit on the number of coyotes that can be killed by a single individual or during a single hunting contest or event.

Senate Bill 723 A prohibits individuals or groups from conducting or participating in coyote hunting contests or events for prizes or other inducement. It makes this violation of the prohibition a Class A violation and requires that the remains of coyotes killed during such contests be turned over to ODFW.