

D R A F T

SUMMARY

Appropriates moneys to Department of Transportation for wildlife corridor projects.

Declares emergency, effective on passage.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

Relating to wildlife corridors; and declaring an emergency.

Whereas wildlife-vehicle collisions pose significant risks to the safety of the driving public and the survival of state wildlife; and

Whereas substantial costs result from wildlife-vehicle collisions, including medical expenses, vehicle damage, emergency response, road maintenance and loss of public wildlife resources; and

Whereas Oregon drivers face higher risks of animal collisions than drivers in other west coast states; and

Whereas a statewide survey of Oregon voters conducted for The Pew Charitable Trusts in 2020 found that 75 percent of Oregonians support increasing funding for the construction of wildlife crossing structures; and

Whereas wildlife road crossing structures have proven to increase public safety and to be effective at reducing wildlife-vehicle collisions; now, therefore,

Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:

SECTION 1. (1) In addition to and not in lieu of any other appropriation, there is appropriated to the Department of Transportation, for the biennium ending June 30, 2023, out of the General Fund, the amount of \$5,000,000 for the purpose of funding projects that promote

1 safe road crossings and connectivity for wildlife as defined in ORS
2 496.004. This appropriation is available continuously until expended for
3 the purpose specified in this section.

4 (2) The department shall consult with the State Department of Fish
5 and Wildlife when distributing moneys appropriated under this sec-
6 tion, and shall take into consideration relevant information, including
7 the Wildlife Corridor Action Plan described in ORS 496.272, the Oregon
8 Conservation Strategy adopted by the State Fish and Wildlife Com-
9 mission and published by the State Department of Fish and Wildlife
10 in September of 2006 and the Oregon Connectivity Assessment and
11 Mapping Project.

12 (3) The Department of Transportation:

13 (a) May distribute moneys under this section for the full range of
14 wildlife corridor project needs, including but not limited to project
15 feasibility studies, planning, construction, retrofit and maintenance
16 of wildlife road crossing infrastructure, roadkill tracking and studies,
17 animal detection systems, signage, exclusionary fencing and wildlife
18 jump outs.

19 (b) Shall prioritize distributions for projects that fill funding gaps
20 for wildlife road crossings and connectivity that are not otherwise
21 budgeted for or required under other federal or state obligations.

22 (c) May make distributions under this section to assist projects with
23 state match requirements of federal grant programs relating to
24 wildlife corridors.

25 SECTION 2. This 2022 Act being necessary for the immediate pres-
26 ervation of the public peace, health and safety, an emergency is de-
27 clared to exist, and this 2022 Act takes effect on its passage.

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