

## HB 2844 -2 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

### House Committee On Agriculture and Natural Resources

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**Prepared By:** Stuty Maskey, LPRO Analyst

**Meeting Dates:** 3/18

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

Specifies for the purposes of certain statutes relating to the taking of predatory animals that the definition of “predatory animal” does not include beavers and that the definition of “rodent” does not include beavers. Directs the Fish and Wildlife Commission (Commission) to adopt rules governing the taking of beavers and requires that at minimum an individual must: obtain a permit before taking a beaver; as a condition of a permit make reasonable attempts to relocate a beaver in consultation with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) before lethally taking the beaver; report any taking of a beaver to the department within 24 hours after the taking and be ineligible for a permit in case of failure to report the taking of beaver. Directs ODFW to publish annual report related to taking of beavers and to make it available to public. Instructs the Commission to adopt rules relating to taking of beavers on or before December 31, 2022.

*REVENUE: May have revenue impact, but no statement yet issued*

*FISCAL: May have fiscal impact, but no statement yet issued*

*No subsequent referral.*

#### **ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

##### **EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:**

-2 Requires the rules adopted by the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission (Commission) governing the taking of beavers to require that a person who takes a beaver must report the take, even if it is authorized by the commission for emergency purposes. Requires that the rules must address the take of beavers on private land and the take of beavers that occurs outside of authorized trapping season. Directs the Commission to consider in rule adoption ways to encourage coexistence with beavers; use of tools to manage or prevent beaver caused damages including tree protection, pond levelers and culvert protection systems; requirements on whether the person taking the beaver must report the location of the take and the conditions under which to authorize a person to take a beaver without a permit if the beaver is causing damage to property or infrastructure.

##### **BACKGROUND:**

Beavers causing damage on private property are defined as predatory animals under ORS 610.002. Current state law allows unlimited beaver killing on private land without a permit.

House Bill 2844 would remove beaver from the definition of predatory animals and direct Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission to adopt rules governing the taking of beavers and require that at minimum an individual must : obtain a permit before taking a beaver; make reasonable attempts to relocate a beaver in consultation with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) as a condition of a permit; report any taking of a beaver to the department within 24 hours after the taking and be ineligible for a permit in case of failure to report the taking of beaver. House Bill 2844 would direct the ODFW to publish annual report related to taking of beavers and to make it available to public.