

HB 2033 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Carrier: Sen. Patterson

Senate Committee On Natural Resources and Wildfire Recovery

Action Date: 04/26/21
Action: Do pass.
Vote: 4-0-1-0
Yeas: 4 - Golden, Kennemer, Patterson, Prozanski
Exc: 1 - Heard
Fiscal: No fiscal impact
Revenue: No revenue impact
Prepared By: Beth Patrino, LPRO Analyst
Meeting Dates: 4/21, 4/26

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Authorizes Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) to deputize veterinary technicians to assist the ODA in carrying out its duties. Requires person desiring an appointment as a deputy state veterinary technician (technician) to apply to ODA on forms provided by ODA. Authorizes ODA to enter into a contract with a technician to obtain and pay for professional services. Allows ODA to establish a fee schedule that includes but is not limited to overtime fees or rates, minimum or maximum fees, amounts to be paid during certain periods of time or for certain types of service, fees based on the number of calls or the number of animals involved, or special fees for certain areas of the state or for particular problems while maintaining statewide fee uniformity as far as practical. Allows ODA to enter into contract with and pay the employing entity, if a technician is employed by a veterinarian, a firm of veterinarians, the College of Veterinary Medicine, or Oregon State University. Requires the technician to assist ODA when requested to do so by the State Veterinarian or deputy state veterinarians. Describes the authority of the technician. Describes conditions for appointment revocation or suspension, and requires a hearing prior to revocation, in most cases.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Existing authority to deputize veterinarians during an emergency
- Importance of veterinary technicians to provide support to veterinarians

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

The Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) is the lead agency for supporting and responding to animal care and sheltering needs during an emergency, as articulated in the Oregon Statewide Emergency Operations Plan. During emergencies, ODA can activate the Oregon Veterinary Emergency Response Team (OVERT), a volunteer cadre of veterinarians and technicians which can be mobilized to perform work on behalf of ODA. ODA can also deputize veterinarians, who then can perform work on behalf of ODA and the state. The current law does not authorize ODA to deputize veterinarian technicians to support and assist the OVERT veterinarians.

House Bill 2033 authorizes ODA to deputize veterinary technicians to assist in carrying out ODA's duties.