House Bill 3204

Sponsored by Representatives HELM, SALINAS, Senator GORSEK; Representatives HUDSON, LIVELY, POWER, PRUSAK, REARDON, SCHOUTEN, SMITH WARNER, WILDE, WITT, Senators DEMBROW, FREDERICK, GOLDEN, PATTERSON

SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure as introduced.

Directs Oregon Health Authority, Oregon State Police, State Department of Agriculture and State Department of Fish and Wildlife to prepare report concerning Oregon's current framework for preventing, monitoring and responding to zoonotic disease. Directs agencies to present report to committee or interim committee of Legislative Assembly related to public health not later than December 31, 2021.

Directs State Fish and Wildlife Commission to establish and periodically update list of wildlife species and other scientifically recognized categories of wildlife that may not be imported, possessed, sold, purchased, exchanged or transported in this state due to potential for transmission of zoonotic disease that may compromise public health, native wildlife or agricultural interest. Authorizes commission to issue permits to bona fide scientific or educational institutions. Punishes violation by maximum fine of $6,250.

Authorizes commission to institute civil suit for recovery of damages for violation. Prohibits person from selling, offering for sale or otherwise participating in sale or offer for sale of wildlife that is not native to Oregon and is sold alive for purpose of human consumption. Provides that prohibition does not apply to sale, offer for sale or other participation in sale or offer for sale of livestock or shellfish. Punishes violation by maximum fine of $6,250.

Requires commission, when adopting rules authorizing holding of wildlife, to consider public health risks, including risks of zoonotic disease transmission.

Declares emergency, effective on passage.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

Relating to zoonotic disease; creating new provisions; amending ORS 164.115, 496.992 and 497.308; and declaring an emergency.

Whereas zoonotic disease can spread from animals to humans, with an estimated three out of four new or emerging diseases being zoonotic; and

Whereas evidence indicates that many of the worst epidemics and pandemics in recent decades have been zoonotic in origin, including COVID-19, Ebola virus, avian influenza, swine influenza, Middle East Respiratory Syndrome, human immunodeficiency virus and Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome; and

Whereas wildlife trafficking and trade has been shown to contribute to the transmission and pervasiveness of zoonotic diseases; and

Whereas the COVID-19 pandemic has underscored the immense loss of human life and economic disruption that zoonotic disease can cause; and

Whereas the COVID-19 pandemic has spurred other states to introduce legislation to ban the importation of wildlife and live animal markets, potentially shifting those activities to Oregon; and

Whereas Oregon's existing wildlife laws and rules do not adequately address the evolving risks and novel zoonotic pathogens that threaten public health, food security, biological diversity and economic security; and

Whereas greater coordination between public health agencies, wildlife management agencies, research institutions and other entities can improve emergency preparedness, prevention and re-
Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:

SECTION 1. (1) The Oregon Health Authority, the Oregon State Police, the State Department of Agriculture and the State Department of Fish and Wildlife shall prepare a report that evaluates Oregon’s current framework for preventing, monitoring and responding to zoonotic diseases and recommends ways to strengthen the framework.

(2) At minimum the report shall evaluate:

(a) Existing protocols concerning zoonotic disease for proactive prevention, early detection, monitoring during an outbreak, testing, coordination of testing laboratories, quarantine and data sharing;

(b) Existing channels of interagency and intra-agency communication concerning zoonotic disease outbreaks or a risk of zoonotic disease outbreaks;

(c) Staff capacity at relevant state agencies, including capacity needed for addressing wildlife trafficking, surveilling pathogens and mitigating disease risks;

(d) Enforcement practices and agency capacity to deter or address activities that pose a risk of introducing or transmitting zoonotic disease; and

(e) Whether there is a need to bolster or develop a comprehensive state framework for preventing a zoonotic disease outbreak and planning and coordinating responses to a zoonotic disease outbreak.

(3) To develop the report, the agencies may consult with bona fide scientific or educational institutions, as defined in ORS 498.022, deputy state veterinarians, other agencies and any other experts with relevant expertise.

(4) The agencies shall present the report to a committee or interim committee of the Legislative Assembly related to public health, in the manner provided under ORS 192.245, not later than December 31, 2021.

SECTION 2. Sections 3, 5 and 9 of this 2021 Act are added to and made a part of ORS chapter 498.

SECTION 3. (1) As used in this section, “bona fide scientific or educational institution” has the meaning given that term in ORS 498.022.

(2) The State Fish and Wildlife Commission shall establish and periodically update a list of wildlife species and other scientifically recognized categories of wildlife that may not be imported, possessed, sold, purchased, exchanged or transported in this state due to a potential for transmission of zoonotic disease that may compromise public health, native wildlife or an agricultural interest.

(3) In deciding when to update the list and whether to include on the list a wildlife species or other scientifically recognized category of wildlife, the commission:

(a) Shall use the best available science;

(b) Shall consult with the Oregon Health Authority and the State Department of Agriculture; and

(c) May consult with bona fide scientific or educational institutions and any other experts with relevant expertise.

(4) Notwithstanding subsection (2) of this section, the commission:

(a) May issue a permit to a bona fide scientific or educational institution that authorizes the import, possession, sale, purchase, exchange or transport of a wildlife species or scientifically recognized category of wildlife on the list.
(b) Shall adopt rules governing issuance of the permits.

(5) In addition to the actions described in subsection (3) of this section, the commission may take any actions the commission deems necessary to protect the public from a potential for transmission of zoonotic disease, including inspection of premises and records to ensure compliance with rules adopted pursuant to this section.

(6) Import, possession, sale, purchase, exchange or transport of a member of a wildlife species or other scientifically recognized category of wildlife on the list, without a permit, constitutes a violation.

SECTION 4. The State Fish and Wildlife Commission shall establish an initial version of the list described in section 3 (2) of this 2021 Act not later than December 31, 2021.

SECTION 5. (1) The State Fish and Wildlife Commission may institute suit for recovery of damages in the amount of $2,500 for a violation of section 3 (6) of this 2021 Act.

(2) Each action in violation of section 3 (6) of this 2021 Act that pertains to an individual animal constitutes a separate violation for purposes of this section.

(3) The amount recoverable under this section shall be reduced by any amount paid to the commission under ORS 496.992 (15).

(4) In a suit brought under this section, the court shall award to the prevailing party, in addition to costs and disbursements, reasonable attorney fees.

(5) Civil damages awarded pursuant to this section are in addition to other penalties prescribed by the wildlife laws.

(6) Any circuit or justice court has jurisdiction to try a case for recovery of damages for violation of section 3 of this 2021 Act.

SECTION 6. ORS 496.992 is amended to read:

496.992. (1) Except as otherwise provided by this section or other law, a violation of any provision of the wildlife laws, or any rule adopted pursuant to the wildlife laws, is a Class A misdemeanor if the offense is committed with a culpable mental state.

(2) Except as otherwise provided by this section or other law, a violation of a provision of the wildlife laws, or a rule adopted pursuant to the wildlife laws, that does not involve the taking of wildlife is a Class D violation if the offense is committed without a culpable mental state.

(3) A violation of a provision of the wildlife laws, or a rule adopted pursuant to the wildlife laws, that involves the taking of wildlife, other than nongame mammals and game birds, is a Class A violation if the offense is committed without a culpable mental state.

(4) A violation of a provision of the wildlife laws, or a rule adopted pursuant to the wildlife laws, that involves the taking of nongame mammals or game birds is a Class C violation if the offense is committed without a culpable mental state.

(5) A violation of a provision of the wildlife laws, or a rule adopted pursuant to the wildlife laws, that involves the size or quantity limits for salmon, steelhead trout and sturgeon is a Class A violation if the offense is committed without a culpable mental state.

(6) A violation of a provision of the wildlife laws, or a rule adopted pursuant to the wildlife laws, relating to the size or quantity limits for fish or shellfish, other than size and quantity limits for salmon, steelhead trout and sturgeon, is a Class C violation if the offense is committed without a culpable mental state.

(7) A violation of the nonresident licensing provisions of ORS 497.102 or 497.121 is a Class A violation if the offense is committed without a culpable mental state.

(8) A violation of ORS 496.994 is a Class A violation if the offense is committed without a cul-
pable mental state.

(9) A violation of ORS 498.136, 498.142 or 498.146 is a Class A violation if the offense is committed without a culpable mental state.

(10) The second and each subsequent conviction within a 10-year period for the taking of a raptor or the taking of game fish with a total value of $200 or more or the taking of antelope, black bear, cougar, deer, elk, moose, mountain goat or mountain sheep in violation of any provision of the wildlife laws, or any rule adopted pursuant thereto, that occurs more than one hour prior to, or more than one hour subsequent to, a season established for the lawful taking of such game mammals or game fish is a Class C felony if the offense is committed with a culpable mental state.

(11) A violation of a provision of the wildlife laws, or a rule adopted pursuant to the wildlife laws, is a Class C felony if the offense involves any of the following and is committed intentionally, knowingly or recklessly:

(a) The unlawful taking of wildlife with the intent to sell or to barter, trade, import, export or otherwise exchange the wildlife or a part of the wildlife.

(b) Except as provided in this paragraph, the second and each subsequent unlawful taking of a game mammal during a 12-month period. This paragraph does not apply to the taking of silver gray squirrel.

(c) The unlawful taking of a moose, mountain sheep, Rocky Mountain goat or wolf.

(d) The third and each subsequent taking of a game fish in excess of a bag limit during a 12-month period.

(e) The second and each subsequent unlawful taking of nonadipose clipped steelhead during a 12-month period.

(f) The unlawful taking of members of the family Acipenseridae that are commonly known as green sturgeon or that are oversized and commonly known as white sturgeon.

(g) The unlawful taking of wildlife that is a threatened species or endangered species.

(12) If a person is convicted of a Class A misdemeanor under subsection (1) of this section, in addition to any other penalty authorized by law, the court shall impose a fine that is:

(a) Equal to the maximum fine described in ORS 161.635 (1)(a), if the person has two or more previous convictions for a Class A misdemeanor under subsection (1) of this section or if the offense involves taking three or more times the daily bag limit of any wildlife.

(b) Not less than one-half of the maximum fine described in ORS 161.635 (1)(a), if the offense involves:

(A) Failing to release a sturgeon more than six feet in length;

(B) Unlawfully taking wildlife to sell, barter, trade, import or export the wildlife, or parts thereof, or selling, bartering, trading, importing or exporting unlawfully taken wildlife, or parts thereof; or

(C) Taking a raptor and the person has a previous conviction for taking a raptor.

(c) Not less than one-fourth of the maximum fine described in ORS 161.635 (1)(a), if the offense involves taking a raptor and the person does not have a previous conviction for taking a raptor.

(13) If more than one minimum fine described in subsection (12) of this section applies, the court shall impose a fine in an amount that is not less than the highest of the applicable minimum fines.

(14)(a) If a court imposes a fine as penalty for an offense under the wildlife laws that involves the unlawful taking or killing of wildlife listed under ORS 496.705 (2), the court shall order that the defendant pay all or a portion of the fine separately to the clerk of the court for paying over to the State Fish and Wildlife Commission. The clerk shall pay over to the commission the amount that the
court ordered the defendant to pay separately for that purpose. The amount that the court orders
to be paid separately to the clerk for paying over to the commission shall be the lesser of:

(A) The amount of the fine imposed; or

(B) The amount that the commission could recover under ORS 496.705 (2) as damages for the
unlawful taking or killing.

(b) If the amount that the commission could recover under ORS 496.705 (2) as damages for the
unlawful taking or killing of wildlife is more than the maximum fine established for the offense un-
der ORS 153.018, 161.625 or 161.635 or any specific fine statute, notwithstanding ORS 153.018, 161.625
or 161.635 or any specific fine statute, the maximum fine for the offense is the amount that the
commission could recover under ORS 496.705 (2) as damages for the unlawful taking or killing.

(c) If an amount paid over to the commission under this subsection is less than the amount that
the commission could recover under ORS 496.705 (2) as damages for the unlawful taking or killing
of wildlife, payment of the amount does not prevent the commission from bringing an action under
ORS 496.705 (2) to recover damages for the unlawful taking or killing. However, notwithstanding
ORS 496.705, the amount recoverable under ORS 496.705 (2) by the commission as damages for the
unlawful taking or killing shall be reduced by the amount paid to the commission under this sub-
section from a fine imposed for the unlawful taking or killing.

(15)(a) If a court imposes a fine as penalty for an offense under the wildlife laws that
involves a violation of section 3 of this 2021 Act, the court shall order that the defendant pay
all or a portion of the fine separately to the clerk of the court for paying over to the com-
mission. The clerk shall pay over to the commission the amount that the court ordered the
defendant to pay separately for that purpose, which shall be the lesser of:

(A) The amount of the fine imposed; or

(B) The amount that the commission could recover under section 5 of this 2021 Act as
civil damages.

(b) The amount recoverable under section 5 of this 2021 Act shall be reduced by the
amount paid to the commission under this subsection.

(16)(a) In addition to any other penalty authorized by law, the court shall order the
commission to revoke all licenses, tags and permits issued to
a person in the manner provided for in ORS 497.415 (3), (5) and (6) if the person is convicted of:

(A) A Class A misdemeanor under subsection (1) of this section if the offense involves:

(i) A violation of ORS 498.042; or

(ii) The unlawful taking of wildlife to sell, barter, trade, import or export the wildlife, or parts
thereof, or selling, bartering, trading, importing or exporting unlawfully taken wildlife, or parts
thereof; or

(B) A Class C felony under subsection (10) of this section.

(b) Notwithstanding ORS 497.415 (5), upon having a license, tag or permit revoked under para-
graph (a)(A)(i) of this subsection for the second time in a 10-year period, a person is prohibited from
applying for or obtaining another such license, tag or permit.

(17) Upon the third conviction within a 10-year period for violation of a provision of the
wildlife laws, or a rule adopted pursuant to the wildlife laws, the court shall order all guns, boats,
vehicles, traps, fishing apparatus, electronic devices and other implements used in committing the
third or subsequent offense to be seized and forfeited to the State of Oregon, to be turned over to the
commission for disposal in the manner provided for in ORS 496.680.
As used in this section:
(a) “Culpable mental state” has the meaning given that term in ORS 161.085.
(b) “Previous conviction” includes a conviction entered in the same sentencing proceeding if the
conviction is for a separate criminal episode as defined in ORS 131.505.
(c) “Raptor” means a member of the order Falconiformes or Strigiformes and includes owls,
hawks, falcons, eagles, osprey and harriers.

SECTION 7. Section 5 of this 2021 Act and the amendments to ORS 496.992 by section 6
of this 2021 Act apply to offenses committed on or after the effective date of this 2021 Act.

SECTION 8. ORS 164.115 is amended to read:
164.115. For the purposes of chapter 743, Oregon Laws 1971, the value of property shall be as-
certained as follows:
(1) Except as otherwise specified in this section, value means the market value of the property
at the time and place of the crime, or if such cannot reasonably be ascertained, the cost of re-
placement of the property within a reasonable time after the crime.
(2) Whether or not they have been issued or delivered, certain written instruments, not including
those having a readily ascertainable market value, shall be evaluated as follows:
(a) The value of an instrument constituting an evidence of debt, including, but not limited to, a
check, draft or promissory note, shall be considered the amount due or collectible thereon or
thereby.
(b) The value of any other instrument which creates, releases, discharges or otherwise affects
any valuable legal right, privilege or obligation shall be considered the greatest amount of economic
loss which the owner might reasonably suffer because of the loss of the instrument.
(3) The value of a gambling chip, token, imitation currency or similar device is its face value.
(4)(a) The value of the wildlife listed in ORS 496.705 is the amount of damages as specified in
ORS 496.705.
(b) The value of the wildlife required to be listed by the State Fish and Wildlife Com-
mission pursuant to section 3 of this 2021 Act is the amount of damages as specified in sec-
 tion 5 of this 2021 Act.
(5) When the value of property cannot reasonably be ascertained, it shall be presumed to be an
amount less than $100 in a case of theft, and less than $500 in any other case.
(6) The value of single theft transactions may be added together if the thefts were committed:
(a) Against multiple victims by similar means within a 30-day period; or
(b) Against the same victim, or two or more persons who are joint owners, within a 180-day
period.

SECTION 9. (1) In this state a person may not sell, offer for sale or otherwise participate
in the sale or offer for sale of wildlife that is not native to Oregon and is sold alive for the
purpose of human consumption.
(2) This section does not apply to the sale, offer for sale or other participation in the sale
or offer for sale of livestock, as defined in ORS 596.010, or of shellfish.
(3) The State Department of Fish and Wildlife may inspect premises and records to en-
sure compliance with this section.

SECTION 10. ORS 497.308 is amended to read:
497.308. (1) No person shall remove from its natural habitat or acquire and hold in captivity any
live wildlife in violation of the wildlife laws or [of] any rule [promulgated pursuant thereto] adopted
under the wildlife laws.
(2) The State Fish and Wildlife Commission may [promulgate] adopt rules to carry out the provisions of subsection (1) of this section that include but are not limited to:

(a) Providing for the issuance and form of permits for the holding or removal from habitat of wildlife.

(b) Prescribing the wildlife species for which holding or habitat removal permits are required.

(c) Prescribing the terms and conditions of holding wildlife and removing wildlife from habitat to [insure] ensure the humane care and treatment of the wildlife.

(3) In adopting rules authorized by subsection (2) of this section, the commission shall:

(a) Strive to protect public health;

(b) Consider any public health risks related to holding wildlife or transmitting zoonotic disease, including any public health risks identified by the Oregon Health Authority; and

(c) Consult with the authority.

[(3)] (4) No person to whom a wildlife holding or removal from habitat permit has been issued shall violate any of the terms or conditions thereof.

SECTION 11. This 2021 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2021 Act takes effect on its passage.