

A-Engrossed
House Bill 4130

Ordered by the House February 8
Including House Amendments dated February 8

Sponsored by Representative HELM, Senators GORSEK, PROZANSKI, Representatives HUDSON, LIVELY, Senator MANNING JR; Representatives ALONSO LEON, CAMPOS, DEXTER, GOMBERG, GRAYBER, HOLVEY, KROPF, LEVY, MARSH, MCLAIN, NERON, OWENS, REARDON, RUIZ, SANCHEZ, SCHOUTEN, SMITH DB, SMITH G, WILDE, WILLIAMS, WITT, Senators DEMBROW, FREDERICK, GOLDEN, JAMA, KENNEMER, LIEBER, PATTERSON, WAGNER (Pre-session filed.)

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.

Appropriates moneys to Department of Transportation for wildlife corridor projects.
Declares emergency, effective on passage.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1
2 Relating to wildlife corridors; and declaring an emergency.

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

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

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

9 Whereas a statewide survey of Oregon voters conducted for The Pew Charitable Trusts in 2020
10 found that 86 percent of Oregonians believe it is important for the state to adopt policies that pro-
11 tect wildlife migration routes and 75 percent of Oregonians support increasing public funding for the
12 construction of wildlife crossing structures; and

13 Whereas wildlife road crossing structures have proven to increase public safety and to be ef-
14 fective at reducing wildlife-vehicle collisions, facilitating essential wildlife migration and promoting
15 healthy wildlife populations; and

16 Whereas the legislature recognizes the need for ongoing focus and sustained investment to re-
17 duce wildlife-vehicle collisions and improve habitat connectivity in this state; and

18 Whereas allocation of state resources can help Oregon better compete for federal funds that are
19 available to support wildlife road crossings; now, therefore,

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

21 **SECTION 1. (1) In addition to and not in lieu of any other appropriation, there is appro-**
22 **riated to the Department of Transportation, for the biennium ending June 30, 2023, out of**
23 **the General Fund, the amount of \$7,000,000 for the purpose of funding projects that reduce**
24 **the number of wildlife-vehicle collisions and improve habitat connectivity for wildlife as de-**
25 **defined in ORS 496.004. This appropriation is available continuously until expended for the**
26 **purpose specified in this section.**

NOTE: Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter *[italic and bracketed]* is existing law to be omitted.
New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 **(2) The department shall consult with the State Department of Fish and Wildlife when**
2 **distributing moneys appropriated under this section, and shall take into consideration rele-**
3 **vant information, including the Wildlife Corridor Action Plan described in ORS 496.272, the**
4 **Oregon Connectivity Assessment and Mapping Project and the Oregon Conservation Strategy**
5 **adopted by the State Fish and Wildlife Commission.**

6 **(3) The Department of Transportation:**

7 **(a) May distribute moneys under this section for the full range of wildlife corridor project**
8 **needs, including but not limited to project feasibility studies, planning, construction, retrofit**
9 **and maintenance of wildlife road crossing infrastructure, roadkill tracking and studies, ani-**
10 **mal detection systems, signage, directional fencing and wildlife jump outs.**

11 **(b) Shall prioritize distributions for projects that fill funding gaps for wildlife road**
12 **crossings and habitat connectivity that are not otherwise budgeted for or required under**
13 **other federal or state obligations.**

14 **(c) May partner with or make distributions under this section to tribes, counties, cities**
15 **or other public or private entities for projects consistent with the purposes and requirements**
16 **of this section.**

17 **(d) May make distributions under this section to assist projects with state match re-**
18 **quirements of federal grant programs relating to wildlife corridors.**

19 **SECTION 2. This 2022 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public**
20 **peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2022 Act takes effect**
21 **on its passage.**

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