

HB 2532 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water

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Sub-Referral To: Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Meeting Dates: 1/26

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Appropriates \$500,000 General Fund moneys to the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife for chronic wasting disease testing and monitoring, and \$1.2 million for staffing the wildlife health lab and sample collection. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

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

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

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Chronic wasting disease (CWD) is a fatal, infectious disease infecting deer, elk, and moose across North America. It is spread through direct body contact or infectious material and results in gradual loss of body fat and muscle mass. There is no cure as CWD is caused by misfolded proteins that transmit their misfolded shape onto normal variants of the same protein. CWD is usually diagnosed by testing brain or lymph tissues from dead animals. The disease was first reported in the 1960s and currently cases have occurred in at least 29 states. While CWD has not yet been detected in Oregon, in 2021 the disease was found in mule deer harvested in Idaho 30 miles from the Oregon border. There are currently no documented cases of CWD in people.

House Bill 2532 would appropriate a total of \$1.7 million to the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife to increase sample collection and testing capacity related to chronic wasting disease.