

HB 2304 -1 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Judiciary

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Meeting Dates: 2/6, 3/1

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Directs the Department of Public Safety Standards and Training to establish a grant program to provide funds for the care of retired law enforcement dogs. Authorizes grant recipients to reimburse caretakers of law enforcement dogs for daily and emergency care. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Usual caretaker plan when law enforcement dog retires.
- Current available funding for caretakers.
- Number of retired canines.

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-1 Modifies eligibility requirements for grant recipients by specifying that a recipient must be a nonprofit that works with and advocates for working dogs; expands class of dogs eligible for grant funding by expanding to any dog who worked for an Oregon law enforcement agency that was certified in patrol or detection; deletes emergency clause.

BACKGROUND:

Law enforcement dogs work and serve alongside law enforcement in several different capacities, including drug detection, explosive detection, and patrol. Law enforcement dogs are retired when they can no longer perform their duties or because they have suffered an on-the-job injury. Retired law enforcement dogs are often taken in by a volunteer who cares for the dog for the remainder of their life.

House Bill 2304 requires the Department of Public Safety Standards and Training to establish a program to provide grants to nonprofit organizations to fund for the care of retired law enforcement dogs who were injured on the job or retired after working in Oregon for at least 36 months. The bill authorizes nonprofits who are awarded a grant to provide up to \$1,000 per year to reimburse caretakers for the costs of daily care, and up to \$5,000 to reimburse caretakers for emergency veterinary care.