

FISCAL IMPACT OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION

Measure: HB 2631 - 3

82nd Oregon Legislative Assembly – 2023 Regular Session

Legislative Fiscal Office

Only Impacts on Original or Engrossed Versions are Considered Official

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 Date: March 29, 2023

Measure Description:

Provides that compensation for loss or injury to livestock or working dogs under wolf depredation compensation and financial assistance grant program must be based on multiplier of not more than five times fair market value of livestock or working dogs and recommendation of county advisory committee.

Government Unit(s) Affected:

Counties, Department of Agriculture, Department of Fish and Wildlife

Summary of Fiscal Impact:

Costs related to the measure may require budgetary action - See analysis.

Analysis:

HB 2631 - 3 modifies requirements for compensation for wolf depredation. The Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) administers a wolf depredation compensation and financial assistance grant program, which provides grants to assist counties to implement county programs that compensate persons who suffer loss of livestock or working dogs due to wolf depredation; and financial assistance for implementation of techniques to discourage wolf depredation. Counties may qualify for a grant subject to available funding in the Wolf Management Compensation and Proactive Trust Fund.

Under this measure, compensation would need to be provided quarterly, and compensation rates would be based on a multiplier of not more than five times the fair market value of the livestock or working dogs, instead of just market value.

ODA anticipates that the switch to quarterly reimbursements may require the agency to review reimbursement applications on a more frequent basis, which will require reprioritization of workload. The agency also anticipates that the additional multiplier for compensation will increase the costs of compensation. Because grants to counties are subject to available funding, this may mean that the agency does not have sufficient funding for all compensation and financial assistance applications. Based on the 2022 depredation numbers, ODA believes that if the five times fair market value multiplier is used, it could increase compensation and financial assistance expenditures by \$350,000. Compensation rates are determined by counties, and compensation is dependent on sufficient funding available in the Wolf Management Compensation and Proactive Trust Fund. Increased compensation and financial assistance grant expenditures would reduce the amount of funding available in the Wolf Management Compensation and Proactive Trust Fund in future biennia.

There is no fiscal impact for counties. There is minimal fiscal impact for Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW), as there may be more requests for ODFW staff to investigate possible depredation occurrences given the increased compensation.