

FISCAL IMPACT OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION

Measure: HB 3052 - A

82nd Oregon Legislative Assembly – 2023 Regular Session

Legislative Fiscal Office

Only Impacts on Original or Engrossed Versions are Considered Official

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Measure Description:

Creates Task Force on Elk and Deer Damage Compensation Funding.

Government Unit(s) Affected:

Department of Fish and Wildlife, Department of Agriculture, Counties, Legislative Assembly, Higher Education Coordinating Commission, Legislative Policy and Research Office

Summary of Fiscal Impact:

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

Analysis:

HB 3052 - A creates the 15-member Task Force on Elk and Deer Damage Compensation Funding, which is to investigate elk and deer damage on private, agricultural lands in certain counties, and make recommendations to the Legislative Assembly concerning a three-year elk and deer damage compensation funding pilot program to be overseen by the Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA). The task force is to report to a committee or an interim committee of the Legislative Assembly related to natural resources no later than September 15, 2024. Members of the task force who are not members of the Legislative Assembly are not entitled to compensation or reimbursement for expenses and serve as volunteers on the task force. The bill directs the Legislative Policy and Research Office to provide staff support for the task force, and the task force sunsets on January 2, 2025. The measure declares an emergency and takes effect on passage.

Legislative Policy and Research Office

The bill requires the Legislative Policy and Research Office (LPRO) to provide staff support to the task force. LPRO assumes a minimal fiscal impact with existing staff to provide support to this Task Force. Assuming monthly meetings over 12 months, this will require one Senior Legislative Analyst assigned part-time to the task force (0.31 FTE), one Research Analyst assigned with one-third of their time to the task force (0.19 FTE), and one Committee Assistant assigned with one-third of their time to the task force (0.19 FTE), at a total cost of \$240,017 using existing General Fund resources. Although LPRO's current service level budget supports interim committees and task forces, if the work required by this task force, or if the cumulative enactment of other legislation with interim committees and task forces exceeds expenditure levels beyond those assumed in the 2023-25 budget, additional General Fund resources may be required.

LPRO notes that additional costs could result from the fact that the counties listed in this measure are in Eastern Oregon, which may require additional budgetary resources for staff travel for meetings. LPRO's estimates also only include costs to assess publicly available information, and not costs to conduct research in the field.

Legislative Assembly

The bill is expected to have a minimal impact on the Legislative Assembly. Two members of the task force will be legislative members who are entitled to per diem and travel reimbursement. Meetings are set by the chairperson and it is unknown how often the task force would meet. However, assuming that the task force meets nine times during the approximate 12-month period until its report is due September 15, 2024, the estimated per diem and travel reimbursement costs will total \$5,100. This amount includes the Federal Insurance Contribution Act (FICA)

tax, assumes the per diem remains at \$157 per day, and estimates an average mileage of 171 miles at the current rate of \$0.655 per mile. This estimate could change based on the number of meetings held. The task force would not incur additional costs to the Legislative Assembly budget if the meetings are held at the Capitol building during the Legislative Session, or Task Force or Legislative Days.

Although the 2023-25 Legislative Assembly budget contains funds allocated for interim committees and task forces, if the work required by this task force, or if the cumulative enactment of other legislation with interim committees and task forces exceeds expenditure levels beyond those assumed in the 2023-25 budget, additional General Fund resources may be required.

Counties

The task force includes a member each from eight different counties, nominated by the respective board of county commissioners. The Association of Oregon Counties notes that if the representatives are county employees, there will be a fiscal impact for time spent on the task force instead conducting other work; and there may be travel costs associated with the meetings.

Other agencies

There is a minimal fiscal impact for the Department of Fish and Wildlife, Department of Agriculture, and Higher Education Coordinating Commission.

This measure warrants a subsequent referral to the Joint Committee on Ways and Means.