

HB 3052 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

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

Action Date: 04/04/23

Action: Do pass with amendments and be referred to Ways and Means. (Printed A-Eng.)

Vote: 8-0-1-0

Yeas: 8 - Gamba, Hartman, Helm, Levy B, Marsh, McLain, Owens, Scharf

Exc: 1 - Boice

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: No revenue impact

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Meeting Dates: 4/4

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Establishes the Task Force on Elk and Deer Damage Compensation Fund and specifies its membership requirements and operational procedures. Requires that the task force investigate elk and deer damage on private, agriculture lands in Baker, Deschutes, Grant, Harney, Morrow, Umatilla, Union, and Wallawa Counties and make recommendations, including those regarding funding needs, concerning an elk and deer damage compensation funding pilot program overseen by the Oregon Department of Agriculture that would sunset after three years of implementation. Requires the task force to submit a report to a natural resource related interim committee of the legislature by September 15, 2024. Requires the Legislative Policy and Research Director to provide staff support to the task force. Directs all state agencies to assist the task force and to furnish information and advice as permitted by law and considered necessary by the task force. Sunsets January 2, 2025. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Statutory directions for the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
- Wildlife conflicts in Oregon
- Purpose of the Task Force

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

Replaces the measure.

BACKGROUND:

Oregon is home to mule deer, white tailed deer and elk. Property damage commonly attributed to elk includes agricultural crop and pasture reduction due to grazing, tree damage due to bark gnawing or seedling pulling and destruction of fences, gardens, and yards. Several other states including Washington and Colorado, currently pay for crop damage caused by elk via funding taken from license fees and hunting tags.

House Bill 3052 A would establish the Task Force on Elk and Deer Damage Compensation Fund.