

House Bill 2999

Sponsored by Representatives HELM, MARSH, OWENS, REYNOLDS, Senators GORSEK, PROZANSKI; Representatives DEXTER, FAHEY, HUDSON, LEVY B, NERON, NOSSE, Senators CAMPOS, DEMBROW, FREDERICK, HANSELL, JAMA (Pre-session filed.)

SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced**.

Modifies provisions of Department of Transportation wildlife-vehicle collision program. Requires department to describe and make recommendations for ongoing funding strategy for program.

Directs State Department of Fish and Wildlife to carry out projects to support species mobility and habitat connectivity.

Takes effect on 91st day following adjournment sine die.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1
2 Relating to habitat connectivity; creating new provisions; amending ORS 366.161 and 366.162; and
3 prescribing an effective date.

4 **Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:**

5 **SECTION 1.** ORS 366.161 is amended to read:

6 366.161. (1) The Department of Transportation shall establish a program to reduce wildlife-
7 vehicle collisions in areas where wildlife corridors identified in the Wildlife Corridor Action Plan
8 by the State Department of Fish and Wildlife intersect with proposed or existing public roads. The
9 program shall include, but need not be limited to, **feasibility studies and** plans for creating or
10 modifying road infrastructure in a manner that reduces wildlife-vehicle collisions and promotes
11 public safety. The plans may include but need not be limited to the use of wildlife crossing struc-
12 tures and roadway fencing.

13 (2) To the extent practicable, the Department of Transportation shall coordinate with local
14 governments, as defined in ORS 174.116, and the tribal governments for tribes and bands listed under
15 ORS 172.110, to achieve the goals of the program described in this section.

16 **SECTION 2.** ORS 366.162 is amended to read:

17 366.162. (1) The Department of Transportation shall establish the program required under ORS
18 366.161 no later than December 31, 2023.

19 (2) Until the Department of Transportation establishes the program, the Department of Trans-
20 portation and the State Department of Fish and Wildlife shall coordinate efforts to reduce wildlife-
21 vehicle collisions based on the data gathered under ORS 496.272. The Department of Transportation
22 shall consider the benefit of including a wildlife crossing as part of a project if the data suggests
23 that such a crossing could significantly reduce wildlife-vehicle collisions.

24 (3) The Department of Transportation shall report biennially regarding the status of the program
25 required under ORS 366.161 to interim or regular Senate and House committees relating to natural
26 resources in the manner provided by ORS 192.245. The report shall include, but not be limited to,
27 information concerning the number and types of wildlife corridor **feasibility studies and**
28 infrastructure projects established or planned, **a timeline for planned project implementation,**

NOTE: Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter [*italic and bracketed*] is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 **estimated project costs and funding sources** and the realized or expected effect of established
2 or planned wildlife corridor infrastructure projects on the number of wildlife-vehicle collisions.

3 **(4) In addition to the information described in subsection (3) of this section, the report**
4 **shall describe any actions taken by the department to secure funding for the program and**
5 **make recommendations for an ongoing funding strategy, including but not limited to:**

6 **(a) Efforts to ensure the existence of one or more dedicated funding sources that meet**
7 **program needs; and**

8 **(b) Efforts to secure federal competitive grants.**

9 **SECTION 3. The State Department of Fish and Wildlife shall carry out projects to sup-**
10 **port wildlife mobility and habitat connectivity within priority corridors identified in the**
11 **Oregon Connectivity Assessment and Mapping Project for strategy species identified in the**
12 **Oregon Conservation Strategy, as defined in ORS 541.890.**

13 **SECTION 4. In addition to and not in lieu of any other appropriation, there is appropri-**
14 **ated to the State Department of Fish and Wildlife, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2023,**
15 **out of the General Fund, the amount of \$5,000,000, for deposit in the Oregon Conservation**
16 **and Recreation Fund to carry out the provisions of section 3 of this 2023 Act.**

17 **SECTION 5. This 2023 Act takes effect on the 91st day after the date on which the 2023**
18 **regular session of the Eighty-second Legislative Assembly adjourns sine die.**

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