**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.

Establishes Task Force on Elk and Deer Damage Compensation Funding.
Sunsets task force on January 2, 2025.
Declares emergency, effective on passage.

**A BILL FOR AN ACT**

Relating to a task force on elk and deer damage compensation funding; and declaring an emergency.

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

SECTION 1. (1) The Task Force on Elk and Deer Damage Compensation Funding is established.

(2) The task force consists of 13 voting members and two nonvoting members, appointed as follows:

(a) One voting member from each of the following six counties that are affected by elk and deer damage, appointed by the respective boards of county commissioners of the counties:

(A) Baker County.

(B) Grant County.

(C) Morrow County.

(D) Umatilla County.

(E) Union County.

(F) Wallowa County.

(b) One voting member who represents private crop insurance, appointed by the Eastern Oregon Counties Association.

(c) One voting member who represents the Pendleton office of the Oregon State University Extension Service, appointed by the Eastern Oregon Counties Association.

(d) One voting member who represents the State Department of Fish and Wildlife, appointed by the State Fish and Wildlife Director.

(e) One voting member who represents the State Department of Agriculture, appointed by the Director of Agriculture.

(f) One voting member who represents the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, appointed by the Board of Trustees of the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation.

(g) One voting member who represents the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, appointed by the Eastern Oregon Counties Association.

(h) One voting member who represents the Oregon Hunters Association, appointed by the Eastern Oregon Counties Association.

**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.

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(i) One nonvoting member who is a member of the Senate, appointed by the President of the Senate.

(j) One nonvoting member who is a member of the House of Representatives, appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

(3) The task force shall:

(a) Investigate elk and deer damage on private, agriculture lands in the six counties described in subsection (2)(a) of this section.

(b) Make recommendations concerning an elk and deer damage compensation funding pilot program overseen by the State Department of Agriculture that would sunset after three years of implementation, including recommendations on the amount of funding needed.

(4) A majority of the voting members of the task force constitutes a quorum for the transaction of business.

(5) Official action by the task force requires the approval of a majority of the voting members of the task force.

(6) The task force shall elect one of its members to serve as chairperson.

(7) If there is a vacancy for any cause, the appointing authority shall make an appointment to become immediately effective.

(8) The task force shall meet at times and places specified by the call of the chairperson or of a majority of the voting members of the task force.

(9) The task force may adopt rules necessary for the operation of the task force.

(10) The task force shall submit a report in the manner provided in ORS 192.245, and may include recommendations for legislation, to a committee or interim committee of the Legislative Assembly related to natural resources no later than September 15, 2024.

(11) The Legislative Policy and Research Director shall provide staff support to the task force.

(12) Members of the Legislative Assembly appointed to the task force are nonvoting members of the task force and may act in an advisory capacity only.

(13) Members of the task force are not entitled to compensation or reimbursement for expenses and serve as volunteers on the task force.

(14) All agencies of state government, as defined in ORS 174.111, are directed to assist the task force in the performance of the duties of the task force and, to the extent permitted by laws relating to confidentiality, to furnish information and advice the members of the task force consider necessary to perform their duties.

SECTION 2. Section 1 of this 2023 Act is repealed on January 2, 2025.

SECTION 3. This 2023 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2023 Act takes effect on its passage.