

Senate Bill 354

Sponsored by Senator SMITH DB (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**. The statement includes a measure digest written in compliance with applicable readability standards.

Digest: The Act changes a program for voluntarily moving beavers. The Act makes the voluntary program include moving beavers from one part of this state to a different part of this state. (Flesch Readability Score: 60.1).

Directs the State Department of Fish and Wildlife to include the relocation of beavers from western Oregon to central and eastern Oregon in a program for voluntarily relocating beavers.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1
2 Relating to relocating beavers; amending ORS 498.062.

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

4 **SECTION 1.** ORS 498.062 is amended to read:

5 498.062. (1) As used in this section:

6 (a) "Beaver" means a member of the species *Castor canadensis*.

7 (b) "Forest practices" has the meaning given that term in ORS 527.620.

8 (c) "Forestland" has the meaning given that term in ORS 527.620.

9 (d) "Small forestland" means forestland whose owner owns or holds common ownership interest
10 in less than 5,000 acres of forestland in this state.

11 (2) Notwithstanding ORS 498.012 (1), an owner of forestland, other than small forestland, or a
12 designee of the owner, may take a beaver on the owner's forestland only if:

13 (a) The beaver apparently poses a threat to infrastructure.

14 (b) The owner or a designee of the owner first requests that the State Department of Fish and
15 Wildlife address the threat to infrastructure apparently posed by the beaver.

16 (c) The owner or a designee of the owner waits 30 days after making the request described in
17 paragraph (b) of this subsection before taking the beaver.

18 (3) If the department receives a request under subsection (2)(b) of this section, the department
19 shall make a reasonable attempt to nonlethally relocate the beaver, as department resources allow,
20 or otherwise address the threat to infrastructure apparently posed by the beaver, in consultation
21 with the owner or a designee of the owner.

22 (4) Notwithstanding subsection (2) of this section and ORS 498.012 (1), if a beaver on privately
23 owned forestland damages or imminently threatens infrastructure, an owner of forestland, other than
24 small forestland, or a designee of the owner, may take the beaver without submitting a request to
25 the department under subsection (2) of this section.

26 (5) An owner, or a designee of an owner, that takes a beaver under subsection (2) or (4) of this
27 section must report the taking as described in ORS 498.061.

28 (6) In consultation with persons engaged in forest practices and other interested stakeholders,
29 the department shall:

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 (a) Make reasonable attempts to nonlethally relocate beavers, as department resources allow.

2 (b) Develop a program for voluntarily relocating beavers **that includes the voluntary relo-**
3 **cation of beavers, on advice from the department, from areas of western Oregon to areas**
4 **of central and eastern Oregon in which beavers are native, in order to provide watershed**
5 **enhancements.**

6 (7) Notwithstanding ORS 496.162 (3), the State Fish and Wildlife Commission shall adopt rules
7 to implement this section.

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