

SB 1539 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Carrier: Sen. Nash

Senate Committee On Natural Resources and Wildfire

Action Date: 02/12/26

Action: Do pass with amendments. (Printed A-Eng.)

Vote: 4-1-0-0

Yeas: 4 - Girod, Golden, Nash, Prozanski

Nays: 1 - Taylor

Fiscal: Has minimal fiscal impact

Revenue: No revenue impact

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Meeting Dates: 2/3, 2/12

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure authorizes individuals without a veterinary medicine license to practice cattle pregnancy verification services, provided they have specific education to do so, until January 1, 2031. It also allows the Oregon Veterinary Medical Examining Board (OVMEB) to specify by rule the circumstances under which unlicensed individuals may perform such services.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Shortage of large animal veterinarians in Oregon
- Disease identification via cattle pregnancy checks
- Required training to perform pregnancy verification services on cattle
- Regulatory authority of the Oregon Department of Agriculture and the OVMEB

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

The amendment transfers rulemaking authority from the Oregon Department of Agriculture to the OVMEB, authorizing the board to specify by rule the circumstances under which unlicensed individuals may perform cattle pregnancy verification. It revokes this authorization on January 1, 2031.

BACKGROUND:

Oregon Revised Statutes 686.020 and 686.040 authorize the following individuals to practice veterinary medicine:

- Licensed veterinary professionals in medicine, surgery, or dentistry
- Authorized representatives of the Department of Agriculture
- Unlicensed representatives of livestock, cow-testing, or poultry associations who collect blood samples for disease testing, with Department of Agriculture authorization
- Individuals permitted by the Department of Fish and Wildlife to rehabilitate wildlife
- Students, agents, or employees of educational or research institutions involved in relevant activities

These statutes do not currently authorize individuals who do not hold a veterinary license to practice cattle pregnancy determination.