

HB 4034 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Carrier: Sen. Neron Misslin

Senate Committee On Natural Resources and Wildfire

Action Date: 02/19/26
Action: Do pass the A-Eng bill.
Vote: 4-0-1-0
Yeas: 4 - Girod, Golden, Nash, Taylor
Exc: 1 - Prozanski
Fiscal: Has minimal fiscal impact
Revenue: No revenue impact
Prepared By: Alexa Piscanio, LPRO Analyst
Meeting Dates: 2/17, 2/19

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure removes veterinary facilities from the definition of an animal rescue entity (ARE) and transfers enforcement authority over ARE recordkeeping, inspection, investigation, and violation procedures from the Oregon State Veterinarian to the Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA). It directs ODA to develop and implement new rules for these procedures.

Detailed Summary:

- Revises the definition of AREs by removing veterinary facilities from the definition of AREs, removing fish from the definition of “animal” for ARE regulation purposes, and removing the requirement that AREs have at least 10 animals in legal custody
- Directs ODA to adopt rules for AREs that keep 10 or more animals in legal custody for more than two consecutive business days, including rules that do the following:
 - Require recordkeeping for each animal in custody
 - Establish an auditing process
 - Implement licensing requirements
 - Ensure notice, hearing rights, and access to judicial review for alleged violations
- Requires ODA to solicit input during rulemaking from rural and urban AREs and from individuals and organizations that transport animals to or from AREs or provide free or low-cost animal care
- Authorizes ODA to inspect ARE records and obtain reports or other information during audits and prohibits AREs from transferring a license to another person

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Provisions of the measure

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Oregon Revised Statutes 609.415 currently defines an ARE as any individual or organization that keeps, houses, and maintains 10 or more animals at one time in its legal custody and solicits or accepts donations. Senate Bill 883 (2019) created the ARE Licensing Program to establish statewide licensing and recordkeeping requirements for AREs and designated the State Veterinarian as the agency responsible for enforcement. Currently, the State Veterinarian is the enforcing agency responsible for regulating AREs.