

**Enrolled**  
**House Bill 2971**

Sponsored by COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES

CHAPTER .....

AN ACT

Relating to methods of taking wildlife; creating new provisions; and amending ORS 498.164.

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

**SECTION 1.** ORS 498.164 is amended to read:

498.164. (1) Except as provided in subsections (2) [*and (3)*] **to (4)** of this section, a person may not use bait to attract or take black bears or use one or more dogs to hunt or pursue black bears or cougars.

(2) Nothing in subsection (1) of this section prohibits the use of bait or one or more dogs by employees or agents of county, state[,] or federal agencies while acting in their official capacities.

**(3)(a) As allowed by subsection (2) of this section, the State Department of Fish and Wildlife is authorized to appoint persons to act as agents for the department for the purpose of using one or more dogs to hunt or pursue black bears or cougars. Such hunt or pursuit must be in compliance with any black bear management plan and any cougar management plan adopted by rule by the State Fish and Wildlife Commission. An agent acts on the department's behalf and, subject to the department's direction and control, implements specific management programs of the department. An agent may not engage in any other hunting or pursuit while acting on the department's behalf.**

**(b) The department shall:**

**(A) Make the appointment in written form; and**

**(B) Ensure that the written appointment is available to the public for review at the main office of the department in Salem.**

**(c) Upon appointment of an agent by the department, the department shall fix the compensation of the agent and prescribe the duties of the agent. The authority of the agent to act shall be limited to the terms set forth in the written appointment under paragraph (b) of this subsection.**

**(d) The commission shall adopt by rule a process and criteria for selecting and training persons to act as agents pursuant to subsection (3)(a) of this section. The process and criteria shall include, but are not limited to, the qualifications and training for agents and are to cover any guidelines, policies or codes of conduct of the department regarding firearms, first aid, all-terrain vehicles and snowmobiles and the use of alcohol or drugs. The department may also require fingerprints as specified in ORS 496.121 for the purpose of requesting state or nationwide criminal records checks.**

**[(3)] (4) Nothing in subsection (1) of this section prohibits the use of bait or dogs by persons for the taking of black bears or cougars in accordance with the provisions of ORS 498.012 relating to taking wildlife that is causing damage.**

[(4)] (5) Any person who violates subsection (1) of this section commits a Class A misdemeanor and, upon conviction, shall in addition to appropriate criminal penalties have his or her privilege to apply for any hunting license suspended for a period of five years for a first offense and permanently suspended for any subsequent offense.

[(5)] (6) For the purposes of this section, "bait" means any material placed for the purpose of attracting or attempting to attract bears.

**SECTION 2.** ORS 498.164, as amended by section 1 of this 2007 Act, is amended to read:

498.164. (1) Except as provided in subsections (2) [to (4)] **to (3)** of this section, a person may not use bait to attract or take black bears or use one or more dogs to hunt or pursue black bears or cougars.

(2) Nothing in subsection (1) of this section prohibits the use of bait or one or more dogs by employees or agents of county, state or federal agencies while acting in their official capacities.

[(3)(a)] *As allowed by subsection (2) of this section, the State Department of Fish and Wildlife is authorized to appoint persons to act as agents for the department for the purpose of using one or more dogs to hunt or pursue black bears or cougars. Such hunt or pursuit must be in compliance with any black bear management plan and any cougar management plan adopted by rule by the State Fish and Wildlife Commission. An agent acts on the department's behalf and, subject to the department's direction and control, implements specific management programs of the department. An agent may not engage in any other hunting or pursuit while acting on the department's behalf.*

[(b)] *The department shall:*

[(A)] *Make the appointment in written form; and*

[(B)] *Ensure that the written appointment is available to the public for review at the main office of the department in Salem.*

[(c)] *Upon appointment of an agent by the department, the department shall fix the compensation of the agent and prescribe the duties of the agent. The authority of the agent to act shall be limited to the terms set forth in the written appointment under paragraph (b) of this subsection.*

[(d)] *The commission shall adopt by rule a process and criteria for selecting and training persons to act as agents pursuant to subsection (3)(a) of this section. The process and criteria shall include, but are not limited to, the qualifications and training for agents and are to cover any guidelines, policies or codes of conduct of the department regarding firearms, first aid, all-terrain vehicles and snowmobiles and the use of alcohol or drugs. The department may also require fingerprints as specified in ORS 496.121 for the purpose of requesting state or nationwide criminal records checks.*

[(4)] (3) Nothing in subsection (1) of this section prohibits the use of bait or dogs by persons for the taking of black bears or cougars in accordance with the provisions of ORS 498.012 relating to taking wildlife that is causing damage.

[(5)] (4) Any person who violates subsection (1) of this section commits a Class A misdemeanor and, upon conviction, shall in addition to appropriate criminal penalties have his or her privilege to apply for any hunting license suspended for a period of five years for a first offense and permanently suspended for any subsequent offense.

[(6)] (5) For the purposes of this section, "bait" means any material placed for the purpose of attracting or attempting to attract bears.

**SECTION 3. The amendments to ORS 498.164 by section 2 of this 2007 Act become operative January 2, 2014.**

**Passed by House May 8, 2007**

**Repassed by House June 11, 2007**

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Chief Clerk of House

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Speaker of House

**Passed by Senate June 8, 2007**

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President of Senate

**Received by Governor:**

.....M,....., 2007

**Approved:**

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Governor

**Filed in Office of Secretary of State:**

.....M,....., 2007

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Secretary of State