

HB 3227 -1 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Natural Resources

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Sub-Referral To: Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Meeting Dates: 3/28, 4/2

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Requires Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department) establish and implement Excessive Elk Damage Pilot Program (Program). Requires that Program: address excessive elk damage on private property; designate program area at minimum in or adjacent to Lincoln, Tillamook, Clatsop, Union, Morrow, Wallowa, and Umatilla counties; establish hunting unit boundaries; sell program tags to persons registered with program complaining of excessive elk damage on property owned, leased, or rented by person or by business entity that includes person as principal partner or shareholder; allow property owner or principal partner or shareholder to use program tag on described property; allow exchange of specific elk tags for program tags; limit use of program tags to antlerless elk; does not limit program tags available to person; does not impose minimum acreage requirement for program registration; does not impose registration fee; allow person registered in program to allow another person to use program tag with no limit; allow person to register for program at any time prior to issuance of tag; allow person to use artificial light on property with consent and presence of property owner; authorize Department biologists to sell and exchange program tags and to establish period of validity for tags; require person record number of elk taken under program tag to local Department biologist.

Requires Department submit report on Program to Legislative Assembly no later than September 15, 2020.

Requires Department: assess effectiveness of program; state how program was assessed; provide elk population summary; summarize management objectives; assess elk use of private and public lands; summarize elk damage on private lands; identify change in elk distribution; and identify change in elk damage complaints.

Sunsets January 2, 2024.

Takes effect on 91st day following adjournment sine die.

FISCAL: May have fiscal impact, no statement yet issued

REVENUE: May have revenue impact, no statement yet issued

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-1 Removes requirement that Program allow persons to use artificial light on property with consent and presence of property owner.

FISCAL: May have fiscal impact, no statement yet issued

REVENUE: May have revenue impact, no statement yet issued

BACKGROUND:

Property damage commonly attributed to elk includes agricultural crop and pasture reduction due to grazing; tree damage due to bark gnawing or seedling pulling; and destruction of fences, gardens, and yards.

The Southwest Oregon Landowner Preference Pilot Program was created by the legislature in 2003 to address damage caused by elk on private lands in Jackson, Josephine, Coos, Curry, and Douglas counties by implementing less restrictive landowner preference rules for qualifying landowners in the pilot study area. The program was set

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to sunset in 2014. In 2013, the legislature expanded the program statewide by creating the Oregon Landowner Damage Program. Currently, the program is required to limit the use of damage tags to taking antlerless elk and can only be used on property owned, leased, or rented by the landowner or by a business entity that includes the landowner as a principal partner or shareholder.

House Bill 3227 would require the Department to establish an Excessive Elk Damage Pilot Program, require the Department to report on the program to an interim committee, and sunset the program on January 2, 2024.