

HB 4075 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Carrier: Rep. Witt

House Committee On Natural Resources

Action Date: 02/13/20

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

Vote: 5-2-0-0

Yeas: 5 - Gorsek, Lively, Reardon, Sprenger, Witt

Nays: 2 - Barreto, Smith DB

Fiscal: No fiscal impact

Revenue: No revenue impact

Prepared By: Laura Kentnesse, LPRO Analyst

Meeting Dates: 2/11, 2/13

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Prohibits coyote contests, competitions, tournaments, or derbies for prizes or other inducement. Requires the hunter to forfeit the remains of a coyote killed during a prohibited event to the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. Punishes as a Class A violation. Allows a raffle conducted by a nonprofit organization to occur if the raffle does not award prizes based on the number, weight, or size of the coyotes taken.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Legislative history on coyote contest prohibition efforts
- Hunting traditions, fair chase principles, and ethical hunting concerns
- Livestock depredation by coyotes
- Science related to coyote breeding patterns following a killing
- Similarities and differences to fishing derbies

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

Allows a raffle conducted by a nonprofit organization to occur if the raffle does not award prizes based on the number, weight, or size of the coyotes taken. Deletes the emergency clause.

BACKGROUND:

The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) estimates that there are 300,000 coyotes in Oregon. Coyotes are not a protected species and the hunting of coyotes is not regulated by ODFW. Coyotes are statutorily defined as predatory animals and can be killed on an owner's land without a hunting permit and on public land with a permit. There is currently no limit on the number of coyotes that can be killed by a single individual or during a single hunting contest or event.

House Bill 4075-A would prohibit coyote contests, competitions, tournaments, or derbies for prizes or other inducement, require a person in violation to forfeit the remains to ODFW, and punish as a Class A violation. The measure would exempt certain raffles from the prohibition.