

HB 2069 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY
House Committee On Agriculture and Natural Resources

Carrier: Rep. Hudson

Action Date: 03/11/21

Action: Do pass and rescind subsequent referral to Ways and Means.

Vote: 10-0-0-0

Yeas: 10 - Breese-Iverson, Cate, Hudson, Marsh, McLain, Post, Reardon, Smith DB, Williams, Witt

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: No revenue impact

Prepared By: Stuty Maskey, LPRO Analyst

Meeting Dates: 1/26, 3/11

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Establishes the Sage Grouse Mitigation Program In-Lieu Fee Fund in the State Treasury. Authorizes the continuous appropriation of fund moneys to the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife for supporting efforts to restore, protect, enhance, or increase habitat for sage grouse. Authorizes the placement of a portion or all of the fund moneys into an intermediate-term investment account with the approval of the State Treasurer.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Methods and accuracy of the in-lieu fee cost calculation
- Tools for quantification: habitat quantification tool, net conservation benefit calculator

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

The Sage Grouse Mitigation Program is one result of Oregon's sage grouse conservation efforts among a diverse set of partners to advance a comprehensive approach to sage grouse conservation. The program is housed in the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) and aims to address the threat of increasing development pressure in sage grouse habitat.

Oregon currently has an in-lieu fee (ILF) option to provide developers an additional choice to conduct mitigation for project impacts to sage grouse. All ILF funds are currently designated to be placed into the State Wildlife Fund, a low-interest fund designed for short-term investment. However, the ILF option has not yet been used by developers and ODFW believes an intermediate-term account would provide a more accurate cost to developers.

House Bill 2069 would establish the Sage Grouse Mitigation In-Lieu Fee Fund for sage grouse habitat restoration, protection, enhancement, or expansion, and would allow for the investment of fund moneys into an intermediate-term investment account with the approval of the State Treasurer.