HB 2728   STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Carrier: Rep. Witt

House Committee On Agriculture and Natural Resources

Action Date:	03/18/21
Action:	Do Pass.
Vote:	6-4-0-0
Yeas:	6 - Hudson, Marsh, McLain, Reardon, Williams, Witt
Nays:	4 - Breese-Iverson, Cate, Post, Smith DB
Fiscal:	No fiscal impact
Revenue:	No revenue impact
Prepared By:	Stuty Maskey, LPRO Analyst
Meeting Dates:	2/9, 2/11, 3/18

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Prohibits coyote contests, competitions, tournaments, or derbies for cash or prizes. 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:
- Data and science related to coyote killing contests and predator population management
- Principles of ethical hunting
- Coyote threats to calves, sheep, and other livestock
- Culture and traditions attached to coyote hunting contests
- Tourism and related economic opportunities associated with coyote hunting contests

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

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 2728 prohibits coyote contests, competitions, tournaments, or derbies for cash or prizes, requires a person in violation to forfeit the remains to ODFW, and punishes as a Class A violation. The measure exempts raffles conducted by a nonprofit organization if the prizes are not based on the number, weight, or size of coyotes taken.