

HB 3152 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**Carrier:** Sen. Kennemer**Senate Committee On Natural Resources and Wildfire Recovery**

Action Date: 05/10/21
Action: Do pass.
Vote: 4-1-0-0
Yeas: 4 - Golden, Kennemer, Patterson, Prozanski
Nays: 1 - Heard
Fiscal: Has minimal fiscal impact
Revenue: No revenue impact
Prepared By: Beth Patrino, LPRO Analyst
Meeting Dates: 5/3, 5/10

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Authorizes the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) to operate wildlife inspection stations to prevent the spread of chronic wasting disease or other infections or infestations harmful to wildlife and to collect information related to wildlife management efforts. Requires that wildlife inspection stations be operated under policies and guidelines adopted by the ODFW Director, be plainly marked by signs, and be staffed by at least one uniformed ODFW employee. Requires operator of a vehicle transporting taken wildlife or parts of taken wildlife to stop at wildlife inspection stations. Exempts operator of a vehicle transporting parts of taken wildlife processed by a food establishment from requirement to stop at wildlife inspection station. Makes failure to stop at wildlife inspection station, when arriving at a station, a Class A violation subject to maximum fine of \$2,000. Authorizes enforcement officer to issue citation for failure to stop at a wildlife inspection station when the conduct alleged to constitute a violation did not happen in the presence of the officer, if the officer has reasonable grounds to believe the conduct constitutes a violation based on an ODFW inspection station employee observing the violation.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Chronic wasting disease affecting deer, elk, and moose is not currently believed to be in Oregon, but is present in at least 25 states, including Montana
- Stopping at existing wildlife check stations is voluntary

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Oregon law allows the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) to inspect licenses, tags, permits, and wildlife (ORS 497.036). According to ODFW, wildlife check stations are currently deployed at times to help ODFW assess the condition of wildlife, obtain harvest rate data, and to collect biological samples. There is no legal obligation for an individual transporting wildlife to stop at an inspection station.

As of January 2021, chronic wasting disease had been reported in at least 25 states in the continental United States, as well as two Canadian provinces. It is a progressive, always fatal disease that is spread by contact between animals or exposure in the environment. Neurological symptoms may develop slowly.

House Bill 3152 would authorize ODFW to operate wildlife inspection stations, require an operator of a vehicle transporting taken wildlife or parts of taken wildlife to stop at wildlife inspection stations, and establish that failure to stop at a wildlife inspection station is a Class A violation.