

House Bill 2689

Sponsored by Representative RAYFIELD (Presession filed.)

SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced**.

Directs State Department of Agriculture to establish grant program for purpose of facilitating nonlethal deterrence of wildlife conflict species by farmers and ranchers.

Establishes Wildlife Conflict Species Nonlethal Deterrence Fund to support grant program.

Appropriates moneys to department out of General Fund for deposit into Wildlife Conflict Species Nonlethal Deterrence Fund.

Sunsetts grant program and Wildlife Conflict Species Nonlethal Deterrence Fund on January 2, 2027.

Takes effect on 91st day following adjournment sine die.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1
2 Relating to nonlethal deterrence of wildlife conflict species; and prescribing an effective date.

3 **Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:**

4 **SECTION 1. (1) As used in this section, "wildlife conflict species":**

5 (a) **Means all species of wild cats, bears, weasels, raccoons, skunks, opossums, beavers,**
6 **porcupines, rabbits, eagles, hawks, vultures, owls and wild canines other than wolves.**

7 (b) **Does not mean wolves, deer or elk.**

8 (2) **The State Department of Agriculture shall establish by rule a grant program for the**
9 **purpose of facilitating nonlethal deterrence of wildlife conflict species by farmers and**
10 **ranchers.**

11 (3) **In administering the program, the department:**

12 (a) **Shall develop criteria for receiving a grant and a process for applying for a grant.**

13 (b) **Shall require a recipient of a grant to report to the department on the use of the**
14 **grant funds and whether nonlethal deterrence was effective.**

15 (c) **May award a grant to a nonprofit entity, a county that has an established program**
16 **for nonlethal deterrence of wildlife conflict species or a person engaged in farming or**
17 **ranching, including a person who raises, keeps or produces animals or crops for noncom-**
18 **mercial purposes.**

19 (d) **May not award a grant to compensate for loss of livestock, as defined in ORS 609.125.**

20 (4) **Projects supported by a grant may include, but need not be limited to:**

21 (a) **Acquiring and keeping a guard dog or other animal that deters a wildlife conflict**
22 **species.**

23 (b) **Building or enhancing fencing to prevent entrance by a wildlife conflict species inside**
24 **the fencing.**

25 (c) **Acquiring or constructing birthing sheds for livestock, as defined in ORS 609.125,**
26 **visual or acoustic scare devices or flow devices such as beaver pond levelers.**

27 (d) **Capturing a member of a wildlife conflict species in a nonlethal trap and releasing the**
28 **live member of the wildlife conflict species in another area, with prior approval from the**

NOTE: Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter *[italic and bracketed]* is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 **department.**

2 **(5) The department shall annually review the grant program to assess to what extent the**
3 **purpose described in subsection (2) of this section is being achieved. The department shall**
4 **modify the process for awarding grants as necessary to better achieve the purpose described**
5 **in subsection (2) of this section.**

6 **SECTION 2. (1) The Wildlife Conflict Species Nonlethal Deterrence Fund is established**
7 **in the State Treasury, separate and distinct from the General Fund. Interest earned by the**
8 **Wildlife Conflict Species Nonlethal Deterrence Fund shall be credited to the fund. All moneys**
9 **in the fund are continuously appropriated to the State Department of Agriculture for the**
10 **purpose of carrying out the provisions of section 1 of this 2021 Act.**

11 **(2) The fund shall consist of all moneys credited to the fund, including moneys appropri-**
12 **ated or transferred to the fund by the Legislative Assembly.**

13 **SECTION 3. There is appropriated to the State Department of Agriculture, for the**
14 **biennium beginning July 1, 2021, out of the General Fund, the amount of \$_____ for deposit**
15 **into the Wildlife Conflict Species Nonlethal Deterrence Fund established in section 2 of this**
16 **2021 Act for the purpose of carrying out the provisions of section 1 of this 2021 Act.**

17 **SECTION 4. (1) Sections 1 and 2 of this 2021 Act are repealed on January 2, 2027.**

18 **(2) Any moneys remaining in the Wildlife Conflict Species Nonlethal Deterrence Fund**
19 **that are unexpended and unobligated on the date of the repeal specified in subsection (1) of**
20 **this section shall revert to the General Fund.**

21 **SECTION 5. This 2021 Act takes effect on the 91st day after the date on which the 2021**
22 **regular session of the Eighty-first Legislative Assembly adjourns sine die.**

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