

HB 4128 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Agriculture, Land Use, and Water

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Sub-Referral To: Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Meeting Dates: 2/2

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Directs the Legislative Policy and Research Office to prepare a report concerning Oregon's current framework for monitoring, preventing, and responding to zoonotic diseases, and to present the report to a legislative public health committee by December 31, 2022. Directs the Oregon Health Authority (OHA), Oregon Department of Agriculture, and Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife to provide consultation and information for the report. Requires OHA to notify the Fish and Wildlife Commission (Commission) if a wildlife species is identified as posing a significant risk to public health. Requires the Commission to review and update relevant rules and its list of prohibited species, and authorizes the Commission to take any lawful actions it deems necessary to protect the public from zoonotic disease transmission. Exempts farm animals from the list of prohibited species. Authorizes the Commission to institute civil suit for rule violations related to the prohibited species list and to collect \$2,500 per violation in damages. Prohibits a person from participating in the sale or offer for sale of live wildlife for human consumption. Exempts farm animals and certain fish and marine life that is lawfully raised or harvested. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

FISCAL: May have fiscal impact, but no statement yet issued

REVENUE: May have revenue impact, but no statement yet issued

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

The majority of infectious diseases in human beings are transmitted zoonotically, from animals to humans. Recent examples include Ebola, Zika, West Nile, HIV/AIDS, and coronaviruses such as SARS and COVID-19. These viruses were originally transmitted to humans by bats, rodents, or primates.

The number and type of zoonotic diseases are increasing according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. In response, the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) has developed rules under OAR 635-044 and 635-056 to regulate the holding of wildlife and the importation, possession, confinement, transportation, and sale of nonnative wildlife. ODFW maintains lists of nonnative wildlife species that are prohibited, controlled, or noncontrolled in Oregon, and that are subject to those rules. The Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) requires all animals transported within the state to obtain a certificate of veterinary inspection, and the State Veterinarian has broad authority to regulate import to preserve animal health. Both agencies - ODFW and ODA - have integrated their administrative rules to provide a framework for protecting the state's domestic and wild animal species from significant diseases. In addition, the Oregon Health Authority has responsibility to protect human populations from disease outbreaks. All three agencies have articulated the value and necessity of cross-agency collaboration to monitor, prevent, and respond to zoonotic disease threats.

House Bill 4128 would require the development of a report on state response to zoonotic diseases, the review and update of the prohibited species list and related rules, and the prohibition of wildlife sold alive for human

consumption with certain exceptions.

PRELIMINARY