

SB 199 -1 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Natural Resources

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Meeting Dates: 2/13

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Authorizes the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission to establish by rule requirements or prohibitions concerning the angling, taking, hunting, trapping, or possessing of wildlife defined as a predatory animal. Subjects other statutory provisions to the requirements or prohibitions established by Commission rule, including government coyote getter use; hunting by minors; vector control district activities related to predatory animals; use of fireworks to control and eradicate predatory animals; relevant motor vehicle headlight provisions; Oregon Department of Agriculture bobcat and red fox control measures, employment of hunters and expert trappers for control and eradication, and broader authorities to administer laws related to the destruction, eradication, or control of predatory animals; Predatory Animal, Rabbit and Rodent Control Fund expenditures; county appropriations matching state funds for control and eradication of predatory animals; and an individual's authority to control noxious rodents or predatory animals by poisoning, trapping, or other appropriate and effective means. Eliminates discretion of county courts and boards of commissioners to appropriate county general funds, including unexpended and unobligated funds, for cooperative noxious rodent or predatory animal control. Repeals provision affirming that nothing in the wildlife laws is intended to deny an individual the right to control noxious rodents or predatory animals.

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:

-1 Restores discretion of county courts and boards of commissioners to appropriate county general funds, including unexpended and unobligated funds, for cooperative noxious rodent or predatory animal control with the Oregon Department of Agriculture and U.S. Department of Agriculture.

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

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

BACKGROUND:

Predatory animals are defined as feral swine, coyotes, rabbits, rodents, and certain birds that may be destructive to agricultural crops, products, and activities. Under Oregon law, the Oregon Department of Agriculture administers the laws for the destruction, eradication, or control of predatory animals. The Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission is expressly prohibited from regulating the times, places, or amounts for the taking of predatory animals.

Senate Bill 199 would authorize the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission (Commission) to establish by rule requirements or prohibitions concerning the angling, taking, hunting, trapping, or possessing of wildlife defined as a predatory animal, which would effectively repeal the current statutory prohibition of Commission regulation of predatory animals.