

HB 3247 -1 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water

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Sub-Referral To: Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Meeting Dates: 3/7

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Appropriates General Fund moneys to the Higher Education Coordinating Commission for the Oregon State University Oregon Veterinary Diagnostics Laboratory (laboratory) to monitor, prevent, and respond to zoonotic diseases and specifies their distribution between personnel, equipment (\$500,000), a feasibility study and design of a new veterinary diagnostics lab (\$900,000), and, in consultation with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, the establishment of a chronic wasting disease testing program (\$500,000).

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

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

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-1 Specifies total amount of General Fund moneys appropriated under the measure as \$3.73 million. Distributes \$2.5 million to the Oregon Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory (laboratory) for personnel to address public health needs. Decreases funds dedicated to equipment at the laboratory from \$500,000 to \$330,000. Removes funds for the establishment of a chronic wasting disease testing program.

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

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

BACKGROUND:

A zoonotic disease refers to an infectious disease caused by a pathogen that has jumped from a non-human animal to a human. Zoonotic diseases can be transmitted to humans in a variety of ways and may represent a major public health problem. Examples include rabies, lyme disease, as well as bird flu.

Chronic wasting disease (CWD) is an infectious disease affecting deer, elk, and moose across North America which is spread through direct body contact or infectious material and results in gradual loss of body fat and muscle mass. Although the zoonotic potential of CWD is considered low, identification of multiple CWD strains and the potential for agent evolution upon serial passage hinders a definitive conclusion. To prevent the spread of CWD in Oregon, the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife operates game check stations along major highways during deer and elk hunting seasons and requires all hunters transporting harvested wildlife to stop when a check station is encountered. Sample material is sent out of state for analysis as the Oregon Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory does not currently have the capacity to test for CWD.

House Bill 3247 would appropriate General Fund moneys to the Higher Education Coordinating Commission for distribution to the Oregon State University Veterinary Diagnostics Laboratory to monitor, prevent, and respond to zoonotic diseases through personnel, equipment, a feasibility study and design of a new veterinary diagnostics lab, and the establishment of a chronic wasting disease program in consultation with ODFW.