

HB 3464 -2, -3 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment

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Meeting Dates: 3/22, 3/29

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Removes beavers from definitions of “predatory animal” and “rodent” for purposes of certain statutes relating to taking of predatory animals. Requires Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission to adopt rules on or before December 31, 2024, related to taking of beavers. Requires Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife to publish annual report related to taking of beavers and to make report available to public.

- FISCAL: Minimal fiscal impact
- REVENUE: No revenue impact

No subsequent referral

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Classification of beavers as fur bearers
- Agricultural crop damage
- Methods to control beaver damage
- Rulemaking timeline for agency
- Public engagement process
- Management and use of public versus private lands
- Private Forest Accord
- Appropriate agency to manage beavers

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-2 Deletes “Whether, and under which conditions,” and inserts “Under which conditions” in sentence authorizing a person to take a beaver without a permit if the beaver is causing damage to property or infrastructure.

-3 Removes reference to “rodent” in definition of “predatory animal.” Deletes “Whether, and under which conditions,” and inserts “Under which conditions” in sentence authorizing a person to take a beaver without a permit if the beaver is causing damage to property or infrastructure. Authorizes the landowner or lawful occupant of land, or a designee of the landowner or lawful occupant, to take a beaver without first obtaining a permit from the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission (Commission) if a beaver on privately owned land imminently threatens infrastructure, notwithstanding subsection (1) of the Act and the rules adopted by the Commission. Requires the landowner or lawful occupant of land, or a designee of the landowner or lawful occupant, that takes a beaver pursuant to subsection (9) of the Act to report the taking as required by rules adopted by the Commission.

BACKGROUND:

Beavers causing damage on private property are defined as predatory animals under ORS 610.002. Current state law allows unlimited beaver killing on private land without a permit.

House Bill 3464 would require the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission to adopt rules related to taking of beavers and require the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife to publish annual report related to taking of beavers.