

HB 2532 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

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

Action Date: 02/02/23

Action: Do pass with amendments and be referred to Ways and Means by prior reference.
(Printed A-Eng.)

Vote: 6-0-2-0

Yeas: 6 - Gamba, Hartman, Helm, Levy B, McLain, Owens

Exc: 2 - Marsh, Scharf

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: No revenue impact

Prepared By: Anna Glueder, LPRO Analyst

Meeting Dates: 1/26, 2/2

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Appropriates \$1.2 million General Fund moneys to the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) for staffing the wildlife health lab and sample collection. Appropriates \$395,000 for equipment and \$575,000 for personnel and supplies out of the General Fund to Oregon State University for the development and implementation of a chronic wasting disease program at the Oregon Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory in partnership with ODFW. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Causes of chronic wasting disease
- Importance of prevention
- Budgetary needs of Oregon Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

Removes \$500, 000 for department activities related to testing and monitoring. Appropriates \$395,000 for equipment and \$575,000 for personnel and supplies out of the General Fund to Oregon State University for the development and implementation of a chronic wasting disease program at the Oregon Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory in partnership with ODFW.

BACKGROUND:

Chronic wasting disease (CWD) is a fatal, infectious disease affecting deer, elk, and moose across North America. It is spread through direct body contact or infectious material and results in gradual loss of body fat and muscle mass. There is no cure as CWD is caused by misfolded proteins that transmit their misfolded shape onto normal variants of the same protein. CWD is usually diagnosed by testing brain or lymph tissues from dead animals. The disease was first reported in the 1960s and currently cases have occurred in at least 29 states. While CWD has not yet been detected in Oregon, in 2021 the disease was found in mule deer harvested in Idaho 30 miles from the Oregon border. There are currently no documented cases of CWD in people. In order to prevent the spread of CWD in Oregon, the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife operates 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 2532 A would appropriate \$1.2 million to the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife to increase sample collection and testing capacity related to chronic wasting disease and \$970,000 to Oregon State University for the development and implementation of a chronic wasting disease program at the Oregon Veterinary

HB 2532 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Diagnostic Laboratory.