

SB 57 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Carrier: Sen. Findley

Senate Committee On Natural Resources

Action Date: 03/20/23

Action: Do pass with amendments. (Printed A-Eng.)

Vote: 5-0-0-0

Yeas: 5 - Girod, Golden, Prozanski, Smith DB, Taylor

Fiscal: No fiscal impact

Revenue: No revenue impact

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Meeting Dates: 3/8, 3/20

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Removes the prohibitions against the sale, offer for sale, importation, or breeding of female beef or dairy cattle that have not been vaccinated against brucellosis. Removes female cattle not vaccinated against brucellosis from indemnity and penalty provisions.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Brucellosis eradicated in Oregon nearly 30 years ago
- Eliminating the vaccination requirement poses no known risk to human or animal health
- Bison and elk infections in the Greater Yellowstone Area
- Measure applies to both beef and dairy cattle breeds
- State veterinarian retains full authorities related to disease management and quarantine tools in the event of an outbreak of brucellosis or any other disease
- Brucellosis vaccination will continue to remain available to producers to use on a voluntary basis

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

Removes, for dairy breeds, the prohibitions against the sale, offer for sale, importation, or breeding of female cattle that have not been vaccinated against brucellosis and removes the indemnity provision.

BACKGROUND:

Brucellosis is an infectious disease caused by bacteria that mainly infect cattle, swine, goats, sheep, bison, and dogs. In the past, the bacteria spread to humans through consumption of raw or unpasteurized dairy or meat products or through contact with the bacteria in slaughterhouses, meat-packing facilities, and laboratories.

In 1954, Congress initiated a federal-state cooperative brucellosis eradication program, and in 1955, Oregon enacted laws requiring producers to vaccinate cattle against brucellosis. Veterinarians and animal health officials administer the RB51 brucellosis vaccine to produce an immune response that increases an animal's resistance to the disease. Studies report that the vaccine typically protects 60 to 80 percent of vaccinated cattle from infection. Following vaccination, the animal receives a tattoo on the ear to visually signify vaccination.

Oregon eradicated brucellosis approximately 30 years ago. The only current brucellosis threat in the West is through free-range bison and elk infected with the disease in the Greater Yellowstone Area (GYA). A designated control area has been established in the GYA where bison, elk, and cattle populations are closely monitored, and testing and vaccination are required.

Senate Bill 57 A would remove the prohibitions against the sale, offer for sale, importation, or breeding of female beef or dairy cattle that have not been vaccinated against brucellosis.