

HB 2631 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

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

Action Date: 04/03/23

Action: Without recommendation as to passage, refer to Ways and Means by prior reference.

Vote: 9-0-0-0

Yeas: 9 - Boice, Gamba, Hartman, Helm, Levy B, Marsh, McLain, Owens, Scharf

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: No revenue impact

Prepared By: Anna Glueder, LPRO Analyst

Meeting Dates: 3/23, 3/27, 3/30, 4/3

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Defines “area of known wolf activity” as an area designated by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife as having known wolf activity. Specifies that compensation is provided under grant program implemented by Oregon Department of Agriculture to persons who suffer probable or confirmed loss or injury to livestock or working dogs due to wolf depredation. Provides that compensation for probable or confirmed loss or injury to livestock or working dogs under the wolf depredation compensation and financial assistance grant program to be based on a multiplier of not more than seven times the fair market value of the livestock or working dog. Removes compensation for missing livestock.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Financial and social effects of cattle depredation on producers
- History and budget of the wolf depredation compensation fund
- Adequacy of the current wolf depredation compensation fund to meet compensation needs
- Requirements regarding nonlethal deterrence associated with wolf depredation compensation
- Historic livestock losses prior to wolf introduction
- Costs associated with nonlethal deterrence

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

An area of known wolf activity is designated by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) based on documented location data points of individual or groups of wolves over a period of time. In 2021 ODFW reported 175 recorded wolves in Oregon. On June 24, 2011 the Oregon Legislative Assembly passed House Bill 3560, which directed the Oregon Department of Agriculture to establish and implement a wolf depredation compensation and financial assistance grant program, using moneys in the Wolf Management Compensation and Proactive Trust Fund to provide grants to assist counties to implement county wolf depredation compensation programs.

House Bill 2631 would provide that compensation for probable or confirmed loss or injury to livestock or working dogs under the wolf depredation compensation and financial assistance grant program is to be based on a multiplier of not more than seven times the fair market value of the livestock or working dog.