

House Bill 2559

Sponsored by Representative OWENS, Senator FINDLEY; Representative CATE (Presession filed.)

SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced**.

Allows electors of county to approve measure allowing use of dogs for hunting, pursuing or taking cougars within county. Authorizes State Department of Fish and Wildlife to issue resident of approving county special cougar tag that allows use of dogs for hunting, pursuing or taking cougars within county.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1
2 Relating to cougars; creating new provisions; and amending ORS 498.164.

3 **Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:**

4 **SECTION 1. Section 2 of this 2023 Act is added to and made a part of ORS chapter 497.**

5 **SECTION 2. The electors of a county may, at any countywide election, approve a measure**
6 **to allow the use of one or more dogs to hunt, pursue or take cougars. If the electors of a**
7 **county approve a measure described in this section, the State Department of Fish and**
8 **Wildlife may issue a person residing within the county a special cougar tag that allows the**
9 **person to use one or more dogs for the purpose of hunting, pursuing or taking cougars**
10 **within the county.**

11 **SECTION 3. ORS 498.164 is amended to read:**

12 498.164. (1) Except as provided in [*subsections (2) and (3)*] **subsection (2)** of this section, a per-
13 son may not use bait to attract or take black bears or use one or more dogs to hunt or pursue black
14 bears or cougars.

15 (2) [*Nothing in*] Subsection (1) of this section [*prohibits*] **does not apply to:**

16 (a) The use of bait or one or more dogs by employees or agents of county, state or federal
17 agencies while acting in their official capacities.

18 [(3)] (b) [*Nothing in subsection (1) of this section prohibits*] The use of bait or dogs by persons for
19 the taking of black bears or cougars in accordance with the provisions of ORS 498.012 relating to
20 taking wildlife that is causing damage.

21 (c) **The use of dogs for the purpose of hunting, pursuing or taking cougars under a spe-**
22 **cial cougar tag issued under section 2 of this 2023 Act.**

23 [(4)] (3) [*Any*] A person who violates subsection (1) of this section commits a Class A
24 misdemeanor and, upon conviction, shall in addition to appropriate criminal penalties have the
25 person's privilege to apply for any hunting license suspended for a period of five years for a first
26 offense and permanently suspended for any subsequent offense.

27 [(5)] (4) [*For the purposes of*] **As used in** this section, "bait" means any material placed for the
28 purpose of attracting or attempting to attract bears.

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NOTE: Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter [*italic and bracketed*] is existing law to be omitted.
New sections are in **boldfaced** type.