

House Bill 4148

Sponsored by Representative HELM, Senators DEMBROW, GORSEK, Representatives ANDERSEN, HARTMAN, JAVADI, MARSH, OWENS; Representatives BYNUM, GAMBA, GOMBERG, HOLVEY, HUDSON, LEVY E, LIVELY, NELSON, NGUYEN D, NOSSE, PHAM K, REYNOLDS, SCHARF, WALTERS, Senators CAMPOS, FREDERICK, GELSER BLOUIN, GOLDEN, HANSELL, JAMA, MANNING JR, MEEK, PATTERSON, PROZANSKI, SOLLMAN, TAYLOR (Pre-session 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**. The statement includes a measure digest written in compliance with applicable readability standards.

Digest: The Act directs an agency to expand programs related to wildlife illness. The Act directs an agency to perform a review. The Act directs an agency to establish a program for living with wildlife. The Act makes changes related to wildlife paths and roads. The Act gives moneys for related purposes. The Act goes into effect when the Governor signs it. (Flesch Readability Score: 63.3).

Directs the State Department of Fish and Wildlife to expand programs related to wildlife disease.

Directs the Invasive Species Council to undertake a review of council programs and activities.

Directs the department to establish a wildlife coexistence program.

Makes certain changes concerning a program to reduce wildlife-vehicle collisions.

Appropriates moneys out of the General Fund for implementing the expansion, review, new program and changes to wildlife programs.

Declares an emergency, effective on passage.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

Relating to natural resources; creating new provisions; amending ORS 366.161 and 366.162; and declaring an emergency.

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

WILDLIFE DISEASE PROGRAMS

SECTION 1. (1) In partnership with Oregon State University and the Oregon Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory, the State Department of Fish and Wildlife shall expand programs related to wildlife disease to improve the state's coordination, monitoring, prevention and response related to zoonotic diseases and other wildlife diseases of concern.

(2) To implement subsection (1) of this section, the department and the university shall consult with the Invasive Species Council and may consult with other entities or experts as needed.

SECTION 2. Section 1 of this 2024 Act is repealed on January 2, 2027.

INVASIVE SPECIES COUNCIL

SECTION 3. (1) The Invasive Species Council shall review programs and activities under ORS 570.755, including but not limited to the operation and capacity of the council, interagency coordination, outreach and education and emergency response, to identify and prioritize actions that would improve the state's ability to prevent:

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.

1 (a) Negative impacts from invasive species; and

2 (b) The establishment of invasive species in this state.

3 (2) Subject to available funding, the council shall implement actions identified under
4 subsection (1) of this section, in a manner consistent with the provisions of ORS 570.750,
5 570.755, 570.770, 570.775, 570.780, 570.790, 570.800, 570.810 and 570.815.

6 (3) On or before December 15, 2025, the council shall report, in the manner provided by
7 ORS 192.245, to the House Committee on Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and
8 Water on the status of the requirements described in subsections (1) and (2) of this section.

9 (4) The report described in subsection (3) of this section may be provided as part of the
10 report required by ORS 570.815.

11 **SECTION 4.** Section 3 of this 2024 Act is repealed on January 2, 2027.

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13 **WILDLIFE COEXISTENCE**

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15 **SECTION 5.** (1) The State Department of Fish and Wildlife shall establish and maintain
16 a wildlife coexistence program that aims to reduce conflicts and promote coexistence be-
17 tween humans and wildlife consistent with the wildlife policy described in ORS 496.012.

18 (2) Subject to available funding, program activities may include, but need not be limited
19 to:

20 (a) Human-wildlife conflict resolution, outreach, education and training.

21 (b) Support or grants for wildlife rehabilitation centers, operating under valid permits
22 issued by the State Fish and Wildlife Commission pursuant to rules adopted under ORS
23 497.308, that treat injured or orphaned wildlife.

24 (c) Other work related to wildlife stewardship and compatibility living with wildlife in
25 areas of high potential conflict between humans and wildlife.

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27 **WILDLIFE CORRIDORS**

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29 **SECTION 6.** ORS 366.161 is amended to read:

30 366.161. (1) The Department of Transportation shall establish a program to reduce wildlife-
31 vehicle collisions in areas where wildlife corridors identified in the Wildlife Corridor Action Plan
32 by the State Department of Fish and Wildlife intersect with proposed or existing public roads.

33 (2) The program shall include, but need not be limited to[,]:

34 (a) Feasibility studies;

35 (b) Plans for creating or modifying road infrastructure in a manner that reduces wildlife-vehicle
36 collisions and promotes public safety[.]; and

37 (c) Updates to the guidance, standards and specifications of highways that are necessary
38 for incorporating wildlife corridor features into the design, construction and modification of
39 highways.

40 (3) The [plans] program may include, but need not be limited to, the use of wildlife crossing
41 structures and roadway fencing.

42 [(2)] (4) To the extent practicable, the Department of Transportation shall coordinate with local
43 governments, as defined in ORS 174.116, and the tribal governments for tribes and bands listed under
44 ORS 172.110, to achieve the goals of the program described in this section.

45 **SECTION 7.** ORS 366.162 is amended to read:

1 366.162. [(1) *The Department of Transportation shall establish the program required under ORS*
2 *366.161 no later than December 31, 2023.*]

3 [(2) *Until the Department of Transportation establishes the program, the Department of Transpor-*
4 *tation and the State Department of Fish and Wildlife shall coordinate efforts to reduce wildlife-vehicle*
5 *collisions based on the data gathered under ORS 496.272. The Department of Transportation shall*
6 *consider the benefit of including a wildlife crossing as part of a project if the data suggests that such*
7 *a crossing could significantly reduce wildlife-vehicle collisions.*]

8 [(3)] (1) The Department of Transportation shall report biennially regarding the status of the
9 program required under ORS 366.161 to interim or regular Senate and House committees relating
10 to natural resources in the manner provided by ORS 192.245.

11 (2) The report [shall] **must** include, but not be limited to[,]:

12 (a) Information concerning the number and types of wildlife corridor infrastructure projects
13 **that have been** established, **studied** or planned [and];

14 (b) **A description of a timeline for implementing the wildlife corridor infrastructure**
15 **projects;**

16 (c) **An estimate of the costs and funding sources for the wildlife corridor infrastructure**
17 **projects;**

18 (d) **A description of all actions the department has taken to secure funding for the pro-**
19 **gram;**

20 (e) **Recommendations for a strategy for ongoing funding for the program, including, but**
21 **not limited to, how to:**

22 (A) **Ensure the existence of one or more dedicated funding sources that meet program**
23 **needs; and**

24 (B) **Secure federal competitive grants; and**

25 (f) **A description of the realized or expected [effect] effects** of established, **studied** or planned
26 wildlife corridor infrastructure projects on the number of wildlife-vehicle collisions.

27 **SECTION 8. Contingent on available funding, the State Department of Fish and Wildlife**
28 **shall undertake, or provide assistance to partners that undertake or plan to undertake**
29 **projects to support wildlife mobility and habitat connectivity within priority corridors iden-**
30 **tified in the Oregon Connectivity Assessment and Mapping Project, if the projects are con-**
31 **sistent with the activities described in ORS 496.252 (2).**

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33 **APPROPRIATIONS**
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35 **SECTION 9. In addition to and not in lieu of any other appropriation, there is appropri-**
36 **ated to the State Department of Fish and Wildlife, for the biennium ending June 30, 2025,**
37 **out of the General Fund, the following amounts:**

38 (1) **\$1,177,000, for purposes described in section 1 of this 2024 Act, including expanding the**
39 **capacity of the Wildlife Health Laboratory and expanding sample collection related to chronic**
40 **wasting disease.**

41 (2) **\$1,468,830, for purposes related to the wildlife coexistence program described in sec-**
42 **tion 5 of this 2024 Act.**

43 (3) **\$300,000, for awarding grants to wildlife rehabilitation centers, as described in section**
44 **5 (2)(b) of this 2024 Act.**

45 **SECTION 10. In addition to and not in lieu of any other appropriation, there is appro-**

1 **priated to the Higher Education Coordinating Commission, for distribution to Oregon State**
2 **University for the Oregon Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory, for the biennium ending June**
3 **30, 2025, out of the General Fund, the following amounts:**

4 (1) **\$1,250,00 for increasing personnel and supplies related to zoonotic diseases, as de-**
5 **scribed in section 1 of this 2024 Act.**

6 (2) **\$330,000, for additional equipment related to zoonotic diseases, as described in section**
7 **1 of this 2024 Act.**

8 (3) **\$455,000, for increasing personnel and supplies related to chronic wasting disease, as**
9 **described in section 1 of this 2024 Act.**

10 (4) **\$245,000, for additional equipment related to chronic wasting disease, as described in**
11 **section 1 of this 2024 Act.**

12 **SECTION 11. In addition to and not in lieu of any other appropriation, there is appro-**
13 **priated to the Invasive Species Council, for the biennium ending June 30, 2025, out of the**
14 **General Fund, the following amounts:**

15 (1) **\$220,000, for purposes described in section 3 of this 2024 Act.**

16 (2) **\$500,000, for deposit in the Invasive Species Council Account established under ORS**
17 **570.800, for supporting outreach and education to implement the provisions of section 3 of**
18 **this 2024 Act.**

19 (3) **\$750,000, for deposit in the Invasive Species Control Account established under ORS**
20 **570.810, for funding activities to implement the provisions of section 3 of this 2024 Act.**

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22 **CAPTIONS**

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24 **SECTION 12. The unit captions used in this 2024 Act are provided only for the conven-**
25 **ience of the reader and do not become part of the statutory law of this state or express any**
26 **legislative intent in the enactment of this 2024 Act.**

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28 **EFFECTIVE DATE**

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30 **SECTION 13. This 2024 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public**
31 **peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2024 Act takes effect**
32 **on its passage.**

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