

**SB 769 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**

**Senate Committee On Natural Resources and Wildfire**

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**Prepared By:** Alexa Piscanio, LPRO Analyst

**Meeting Dates:** 2/11

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

The measure allows a county to be exempt from current statute banning the use of dogs to hunt cougars if the county voters approve a measure through an initiative petition or one referred by the county's governing body. Requires an exempt county to notify the Department of Fish and Wildlife if they are determined exempt. Clarifies that an exemption does not limit the State Fish and Wildlife Commission's authority to manage cougars in the county under other wildlife laws.

Fiscal impact: May have fiscal impact, but no statement yet issued.

Revenue impact: May have revenue impact, but no statement yet issued.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

**EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:**

No amendment.

**BACKGROUND:**

Oregon Ballot Measure 18 (1994) banned the use of dogs to hunt or pursue black bears or cougars, with two exceptions: government employees or agents are authorized to use dogs or bait while acting in an official capacity, and individuals may use them if a bear or cougar is damaging their property, livestock, or crops. Violating this law is a Class A misdemeanor, with a 5-year hunting license suspension for a first offense and permanent license loss for a second offense.