

HB 2980 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment

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Sub-Referral To: Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Meeting Dates: 2/4, 2/18

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure directs the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) to establish the Wildlife Stewardship Program with certain duties; it requires the program to administer a grant program to support licensed wildlife rehabilitation centers that hold and treat injured and orphaned wildlife; and it appropriates \$200,000 to ODFW for the grant program.

Detailed summary:

Directs the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) to establish the Wildlife Stewardship Program (program). Requires the program to develop an educational campaign focused on messaging for living with wildlife in urban and suburban areas, minimizing human-wildlife conflict, and emphasizing the core value that wildlife should stay wild. Establishes program requirements, including where biologists should be stationed and what activities they carry out. Requires program to administer a grant program to support licensed wildlife rehabilitation centers that hold and treat injured and orphaned wildlife. Appropriates \$200,000 to ODFW from the General Fund for the biennium beginning July 1, 2025, for grant program.

- *FISCAL: Has fiscal impact*
- *REVENUE: No revenue impact*

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Past related legislation
- Current capacity of non-governmental organizations to respond to human-animal interactions
- Importance of educating the public
- Wildlife rehabilitation as a conservation tool

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Human-wildlife conflict can occur when the needs and behavior of wildlife have negative impacts on humans or vice versa. Examples of such conflicts are crop damage by wildlife or wildlife-vehicle collisions.