



Legislative Fiscal Office
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Bill Title: Relating to the depredation of livestock.

Government Unit(s) Affected: Department of Agriculture, Department of Fish and Wildlife, Counties

Summary of Fiscal Impact

Costs related to the measure may require budgetary action – See analysis.

Measure Description

The measure modifies the wolf depredation compensation and financial assistance grant program administered by the Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA). Compensation for loss or injury to livestock or working dogs must be based on a multiplier of no more than five times the fair market value, as determined by the county advisory committee, with payments capped at \$25,000 per livestock animal or working dog. The measure also increases the required allocation for financial assistance from 30% to 50% of total grant funds.

Fiscal Analysis

Department of Agriculture

The measure modifies the compensation structure of the wolf depredation compensation and financial assistance grant program administered by ODA that was established by HB 3560 (2011). Currently there are 18 counties with approved county wolf advisory committees and participate in the program. While the measure does not increase available funding for the Wolf Management Compensation and Proactive Trust Fund, the addition of a five-times multiplier is expected to increase total compensation costs. Without additional funding, fewer claims will be paid since the program is limited to available funds.

ODA has approximately \$460,000 available to award in the 2025-27 biennium, with historical annual depredation requests totaling around \$70,000 and prevention requests around \$750,000. Applying the five-times multiplier to future depredation claims would increase compensation costs to an estimated \$350,000 per year. With the required 50% allocation for financial assistance, the total annual estimate rises to \$700,000, impacting the distribution of available funds and accelerating fund depletion without additional resources. The full biennial impact will depend on the volume of claims submitted and the extent to which counties utilize the multiplier. Based on historical requests, this would require approximately \$1 million in additional funding per biennium beyond current levels. ODA would need to revise administrative rules and the compensation grant application forms – these costs are anticipated to be minimal.

Other entities

There is no fiscal impact on counties. The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife anticipates a minimal fiscal impact, as the increased compensation may lead to a higher volume of depredation claims requiring investigation by department staff.

Relevant Dates

The measure takes effect on January 1, 2026.