

SB 777 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water

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Meeting Dates: 4/30

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure modifies the Wolf Depredation Compensation Program by specifying that compensation is provided to individuals who suffer probable or confirmed losses or injury of livestock or working dogs, capping compensation at \$25,000 per animal, and establishing certain compensation rates based on specified multipliers applied to fair market value.

Detailed Summary

- Defines "area of known wolf activity" as any area identified by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife where wolf activity has been observed.
- Modifies the Wolf Depredation Compensation Program by **removing compensation for missing livestock** and instead **broadening compensation eligibility** to individuals who suffer **probable** or confirmed loss or injury to livestock or working dogs caused by wolves.
- Increases from 30 to 50 percent the required minimum proportion of allocated grant funds to be used by counties for financial assistance provided to persons who implement **livestock management techniques** or **nonlethal wolf deterrence techniques** designed to discourage wolf depredation of livestock.
- Allows **counties to determine the multiplier** applied to compensation rates, not exceeding a \$25,000 total per animal, **subject to the following caps**:
 - a multiplier of **five times** the fair market value of cow calves and yearlings, sheep, and goats.
 - a multiplier of **three times** the fair market value of cows.
 - the fair market value of horses, other livestock, and working dogs

FISCAL: Fiscal impact issued

REVENUE: No revenue impact

SENATE VOTE: Ayes 28; Nays 1; Excused 1

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) designates an area of known wolf activity based on where an individual or groups of wolves have been documented repeatedly over a period of time, using actual location and data points to establish resident wolf activity. In 2023 ODFW reported 178 recorded wolves in Oregon. House Bill 3560 (2011) directed the Oregon Department of Agriculture to establish and implement a Wolf Depredation Compensation and Financial Assistance Grant Program, using moneys in the Wolf Management Compensation and Proactive Trust Fund. Under this program, participating counties form local committees which then apply for grants to compensate producers for wolf-caused losses as well as non-lethal deterrence measures.