

## HB 2980 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

### House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment

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**Action Date:** 02/18/25

**Action:** Do pass and be referred to Ways and Means by prior reference

**Vote:** 12-0-0-0

**Yeas:** 12 - Andersen, Edwards, Gamba, Helm, Levy B, Levy E, Lively, Marsh, Neron, Osborne, Owens, Wallan

**Fiscal:** Fiscal impact issued

**Revenue:** No revenue impact

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**Meeting Dates:** 2/4, 2/18

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#### 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 the grant program.

#### ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Past related legislation
- Current capacity of non-governmental organizations to respond to human-animal interactions
- Purpose of public education efforts
- Wildlife rehabilitation as a conservation tool

#### EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

#### BACKGROUND:

The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife's (ODFW) Wildlife Division has direct responsibility for "monitoring the numbers and health of wildlife species, setting population conservation and management objectives, overseeing wildlife habitat restoration and maintenance, and regulating the harvest of game animals." ODFW's Wildlife Division is organized into three program areas: Conservation, Game, and Habitat Programs. 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.