

HB 2403 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

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

Action Date: 04/09/25

Action: Do pass. Refer to Revenue.

Vote: 7-2-0-0

Yeas: 7 - Boice, Hartman, Helm, Levy B, McLain, Owens, Scharf

Nays: 2 - Marsh, McDonald

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: Revenue impact issued

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Meeting Dates: 3/24, 4/9

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure allows the establishment of one or more predator damage control districts within a county to fund county services to prevent, reduce, and mitigate property damage from predatory animals.

Detailed Summary:

- Allows establishment of one or more predator damage control districts (District) within a county to fund county services to prevent, reduce, and mitigate property damage caused by predatory animals.
- District formation may be initiated by a petition signed by a minimum of 10 petitioners, each owning more than 10 acres of eligible land (agricultural, forest, or mixed-use land) with a combined total of at least 10,000 acres within the proposed District boundaries.
- Establishes the petition and hearing process for creating or dissolving a District.
- Establishes procedures for adding or removing land from the District.
- Requires appointment of an advisory board within 30 days of District formation and sets membership requirements and operational procedures.
- Authorizes \$2 per acre annual charge or, in certain cases, a \$50 flat annual charge, for landowners in the District to cover the county's costs of managing predator damage.
- Requires the advisory board to review and recommend changes to the charges annually, to be approved by the county. Authorizes county to amend recommended charges.
- Requires the advisory board to provide the county with an annual list of landowners who have opted into the charge, including details of each applicable tax account.
- Directs the county's governing body to certify the advisory board's information and the charge amounts to the county assessor.
- Takes effect on the 91st day following adjournment sine die.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Damage to crops inflicted by predatory animals
- Permissive authority for counties to collect revenue
- Methodology used by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services
- Measure does not cover wolves

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

In some parts of the country, Predator Damage Control Districts (District) have been established by government entities to address farmer and rancher concerns for economic losses resulting from predation. In 2015, the

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Legislative Assembly passed House Bill 3188, which authorized a pilot program allowing, via petition, the formation of such Districts for the purpose of funding county services to prevent, reduce, and mitigate damage to property from predatory animals. These Districts have the ability to assess charges per acre or through a flat fee depending on the characteristics of the property, and election of the property owner. These types of Districts have been formed in Douglas and Coos Counties. The 2015 Act was repealed as of January 2, 2022.