

**SB 777 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**

**Carrier:** Rep. Levy B

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

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**Action Date:** 05/21/25

**Action:** Do Pass the A-Eng bill.

**Vote:** 9-0-0-0

**Yeas:** 9 - Boice, Hartman, Helm, Levy B, Marsh, McDonald, McLain, Owens, Scharf

**Fiscal:** Fiscal impact issued

**Revenue:** No revenue impact

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**Meeting Dates:** 4/30, 5/21

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**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 authorizing counties to establish compensation rates capped at 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 to 50 percent, from 30 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; and
  - the fair market value of horses, other livestock, and working dogs.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Availability of funds in the wolf depredation compensation program
- Equitable distribution of program funding between counties
- Relationship between the program and the Wolf Conservation and Management Plan
- Areas where known wolf activities occur in Oregon
- Method to confirm that program participants fulfill program requirements prior to receiving funding
- Origin and rationale behind the multiplier numbers for compensation rates
- Coexistence between humans and wolves
- Importance of continued funding for the program

**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

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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 apply for grants to compensate producers for wolf-caused losses as well for implementing non-lethal deterrence measures.