

SB 777-5
(LC 1671)
3/6/25 (AG/ps)

Requested by SENATE COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES AND WILDFIRE

**PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO
SENATE BILL 777**

1 On page 1 of the printed bill, delete lines 4 through 28 and delete pages
2 2 and 3 and insert:

3 **“SECTION 1.** ORS 610.150 is amended to read:

4 “610.150. (1) As used in this section:

5 **“(a) ‘Area of known wolf activity’ means an area designated by the**
6 **State Department of Fish and Wildlife as having known wolf activity.**

7 “[*(a)*] **(b) ‘Livestock’** means ratites, psittacines, horses, mules, jackasses,
8 cattle, llamas, alpacas, sheep, goats, swine, bison, domesticated fowl and any
9 fur-bearing animal bred and maintained commercially, or otherwise, within
10 pens, cages or hutches.

11 “[*(b)*] **(c) ‘Working dog’** means any animal of the species *Canis familiaris*
12 used to aid in the herding or guarding of livestock.

13 “(2) The State Department of Agriculture shall establish and implement
14 a wolf depredation compensation and financial assistance grant program,
15 using moneys in the Wolf Management Compensation and Proactive Trust
16 Fund established under ORS 610.155, to provide grants to assist counties to
17 implement county programs under which:

18 “(a) Compensation is [*paid*] **provided** to persons who suffer **probable or**
19 **confirmed** loss or injury to livestock or working dogs due to wolf
20 depredation; and

21 “(b) Financial assistance is provided to persons who implement livestock

1 management techniques or nonlethal wolf deterrence techniques designed to
2 discourage wolf depredation of livestock.

3 “(3) Subject to available funding in the Wolf Management Compensation
4 and Proactive Trust Fund established under ORS 610.155, a county qualifies
5 for a grant [*under the wolf depredation compensation and financial assistance*
6 *grant program*] if the county:

7 “(a) Establishes a county program to[:]
8 **provide compensation and fi-**
9 **ncial assistance as described in subsection (2) of this section.**

10 “[*(A) Compensate persons who suffer loss or injury to livestock or working*
11 *dogs due to wolf depredation; and*]

12 “[*(B) Provide financial assistance to persons who implement livestock*
13 *management techniques or nonlethal wolf deterrence techniques designed to*
14 *discourage wolf depredation of livestock.*]

15 “(b) Contributes an amount of moneys equal to 10 percent of the amount
16 necessary to implement, during the calendar year, the county program.

17 “(c) Establishes [*a procedure*] **procedures** by which persons **who:**

18 **“(A) Are applying for compensation [*under the county program*], as de-**
19 **scribed in subsection (2)(a) of this section,** provide evidence of the
20 **probable or confirmed** loss or injury to livestock or working dogs due to
21 wolf depredation[. *Evidence of the loss or injury must include*], **including** a
22 finding by the State Department of Fish and Wildlife or the department’s
23 designated agent that wolf depredation was the probable cause of the loss
24 or injury.

25 **“(B) Are applying for financial assistance, as described in sub-**
26 **section (2)(b) of this section, provide an estimate of the potential cost**
27 **of any livestock management techniques or nonlethal wolf deterrence**
28 **techniques the person plans to use.**

29 “(d) Establishes a county advisory committee to oversee the county pro-
30 gram, consisting of one county commissioner, two members who own or
manage livestock and two members who support wolf conservation or coex-

1 istence with wolves. The county advisory committee, once established by the
2 county, shall agree upon two county business representatives to serve as
3 additional county advisory committee members.

4 “[e] *Establishes a procedure by which persons applying for financial as-*
5 *sistance under the county program provide an estimate of the potential cost of*
6 *the livestock management techniques or nonlethal wolf deterrence techniques*
7 *designed to discourage wolf depredation.*]

8 “(4) In accordance with the Oregon Wolf Conservation and Management
9 Plan, the Director of Agriculture shall adopt rules to implement the pro-
10 visions of this section, including [*but not limited to*] rules that **require**
11 **participating counties to:**

12 “(a) [*Require that*] **Prioritize awarding grants to** livestock owners and
13 managers experiencing above-normal **probable or confirmed** loss or injury
14 to livestock or working dogs due to wolf depredation [*be given priority by*
15 *counties for grant moneys received under the wolf depredation compensation*
16 *and financial assistance grant program*].

17 “[b] *Require counties participating in the wolf depredation compensation*
18 *and financial assistance grant program to:*]

19 “[A] *Prepare an annual report that specifies the actions taken by, and*
20 *compensation paid and financial assistance provided to, counties under the*
21 *wolf depredation compensation and financial assistance grant program;*]

22 “(b) **Prepare annual reports that describe the counties’ actions**
23 **taken under the county grant programs, including the amounts pro-**
24 **vided as compensation and financial assistance, as described in sub-**
25 **section (2) of this section.**

26 “[B] (c) Distribute grant program funds, to the extent possible, in an
27 equal and balanced manner between [*payments to compensate for loss or in-*
28 *jury to livestock or working dogs due to wolf depredation and payments to*
29 *implement livestock management techniques or nonlethal wolf deterrence tech-*
30 *niques designed to discourage wolf depredation of livestock*] **compensation**

1 **and financial assistance, as described in subsection (2) of this section,**
2 with a minimum of [30] **50** percent of grant program funds being distributed
3 for [*livestock management techniques or nonlethal wolf deterrence techniques*
4 *designed to discourage wolf depredation of livestock; and*] **financial assist-**
5 **ance, as described in subsection (2)(b) of this section.**

6 “[*(C) Establish compensation rates for loss or injury to livestock or working*
7 *dogs due to wolf depredation that are based on fair market value and the*
8 *recommendation of the county advisory committee described in subsection (3)(d)*
9 *of this section.*.]

10 **“(d) Allow county advisory committees described in subsection**
11 **(3)(d) of this section to determine an amount of compensation, as de-**
12 **scribed in subsection (2)(a) of this section, for each probable or con-**
13 **firmed loss or injury to a livestock animal or working dog due to wolf**
14 **depredation that is:**

15 **“(A) Not more than \$25,000 per livestock animal or working dog;**

16 **“(B) Up to five times the fair market value of a cow calf or yearling,**
17 **sheep or goat;**

18 **“(C) Up to three times the fair market value of a cow not described**
19 **in subparagraph (B) of this paragraph; and**

20 **“(D) The fair market value of a horse, a livestock animal not spe-**
21 **cifically described in this paragraph or a working dog.**

22 “[*(c)*] **(e) Establish eligibility requirements for compensation, as de-**
23 **scribed in subsection (2)(a) of this section, under county programs that**
24 **ensure, contingent upon available funds, that:**

25 **“(A) Outside an area of known wolf activity, [*as designated by the State***
26 *Department of Fish and Wildlife, confirmed loss or injury to livestock or*
27 *working dogs shall be compensated] **the compensation is provided** regard-
28 **less of the preexistence of wolf deterrence techniques;***

29 **“(B) Within an area of known wolf activity, [*as designated by the State***
30 *Department of Fish and Wildlife, confirmed loss or injury to livestock or*

1 *working dogs, as well as missing livestock above the level based on loss or*
2 *injury attributable to causes other than wolf depredation established by the*
3 *county advisory committee described in subsection (3)(d) of this section, shall*
4 *be compensable]* **the compensation is provided only** if owners have dem-
5 onstrated implementation of best management practices to deter wolves, in-
6 cluding reasonable use of nonlethal methods when practicable[, *giving*
7 *priority for compensation of confirmed losses at fair market value and with*
8 *other compensation claims determined according to the recommendation of the*
9 *county advisory committee*]; and

10 “(C) Any compensation [*for loss or injury to livestock or working dogs due*
11 *to wolf depredation]* is based upon a finding by the local advisory committee
12 that the person did not unreasonably or purposefully create circumstances
13 that attract wolves or encourage conflict between wolves and livestock or
14 working dogs.

15 “(5) Each biennium the State Department of Agriculture shall:

16 “(a) Prepare a report that specifies the actions taken by counties, com-
17 pensation [*paid*] **and financial assistance provided** by counties, and **the**
18 financial assistance provided to counties, under the wolf depredation com-
19 pensation and financial assistance grant program[, *and*];

20 “(b) [*shall*] Submit the report, **in the manner provided in ORS 192.245,**
21 **to committees or interim committees of the Legislative Assembly related**
22 **to natural resources;** and

23 “(c) Post the report on the department’s website for public access.

24 “(6) The State Department of Agriculture may use moneys in the Wolf
25 Management Compensation and Proactive Trust Fund established under ORS
26 610.155 to pay expenses incurred in administering the wolf depredation com-
27 pensation and financial assistance grant program.”.

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