

HOUSE AMENDMENTS TO HOUSE BILL 2759

By COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES

April 5

1 On page 1 of the printed bill, delete lines 4 through 26 and delete page 2 and insert:

2 **“SECTION 1. (1) Notwithstanding ORS 498.164, the State Department of Fish and Wildlife**
3 **shall create a pilot program allowing persons to use dogs in the hunting and in the nonlethal**
4 **pursuit of cougars. The department shall designate game management areas of the following**
5 **counties as areas in which the use of dogs in the hunting and in the nonlethal pursuit of**
6 **cougars is allowed:**

7 **“(a) Umatilla, Wallowa, Union, Baker, Grant, Douglas, Coos, Curry, Josephine and**
8 **Jackson; and**

9 **“(b) Any county not specified in paragraph (a) of this subsection that, on or after June**
10 **30, 2008:**

11 **“(A) Adopts a resolution requesting inclusion in the pilot program;**

12 **“(B) Demonstrates to the satisfaction of the department that existing mechanisms for**
13 **protecting public safety and property have not been sufficient to deal with cougar problems;**
14 **and**

15 **“(C) Documents to the department the number of unwanted encounters in the county**
16 **between humans and cougars, the number of livestock and domestic animals killed by**
17 **cougars in the county and the effect of cougars on the game mammal population.**

18 **“(2) The pilot program shall allow for separate hunting and nonlethal pursuit seasons in**
19 **each area managed by the department.**

20 **“(3) Rules adopted by the department to implement the pilot program shall:**

21 **“(a) Be designed to protect public safety, property and game mammals;**

22 **“(b) Be designed to generate data that is necessary for the department to develop the**
23 **report required by section 2 of this 2005 Act;**

24 **“(c) Reflect the current and future predictions of cougar populations;**

25 **“(d) Reflect the current and future predictions of game mammal populations and rates**
26 **of taking of game mammals by licensed hunters; and**

27 **“(e) Be designed to ensure that the number of cougars prescribed for taking under ORS**
28 **496.162 is met.**

29 **“(4) The department may, as part of the rules adopted to implement the pilot program,**
30 **establish standards for handling dogs and for training persons using dogs in the hunting and**
31 **the nonlethal pursuit of cougars.**

32 **“(5) The State Fish and Wildlife Commission may not limit the number of cougar tags**
33 **issued or the number of persons who may utilize dogs under the pilot program, however, the**
34 **commission may limit the number of cougars that may be taken in order to ensure that the**
35 **wildlife policy objectives of ORS 496.012 are met.**

1 **“SECTION 2. The State Department of Fish and Wildlife shall report to the Seventy-fifth**
2 **Legislative Assembly on the pilot program conducted pursuant to section 1 of this 2005 Act.**

3 **The report shall contain:**

4 **“(1) Information on the efficacy of the pilot program on cougar population management**
5 **and a recommendation on whether the pilot program should be made permanent or be ex-**
6 **tended. The department may provide this information on a statewide, regional or county by**
7 **county basis.**

8 **“(2) A summary of the population data collected during the pilot program.**

9 **“(3) A recommendation for the development of a comprehensive and effective reporting**
10 **system for people to report encounters with and sightings of cougars, bears and wolves.**

11 **“(4) A recommendation for a cougar population management system that focuses on**
12 **controlling the population level.**

13 **“(5) Identification of nonlethal means that would decrease encounters between humans**
14 **and cougars.**

15 **“(6) A summary of the elk cow-to-calf ratio and of the deer doe-to-fawn ratio during the**
16 **pilot program in comparison with the same ratios for the 10 years prior to the implementa-**
17 **tion of the pilot program.**

18 **“(7) A summary of any elk predation or nutrition research project conducted by the de-**
19 **partment in Union and Wallowa Counties.**

20 **“SECTION 3. Sections 1 and 2 of this 2005 Act are repealed on January 2, 2010.”.**

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