

OHA TRACKER

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Coyote bill dies; gun bills take on new lives

By Al Elkins & Amy Patrick, OHA Lobbyists
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April brought a new deadline for bills in Oregon's House and Senate chambers. If a bill did not have a hearing or work session scheduled, the bill died in committee. OHA's two bills moved forward. Here is the latest rundown on bill action.

HB 3152 Wildlife Inspection Points

This is an OHA bill. The bill gives ODFW authority to operate wildlife inspection points for purposes of preventing the spread of infections or infestations harmful to wildlife and to further wildlife management efforts.

Update: The bill has passed the House and the Senate. The bill now goes to the office of the Governor for her signature.

HB 3163 Residency Requirements

This is an OHA bill. It makes a change in residency requirements for purposes of licenses, tags, and permits related to wildlife. Through discussions with law enforcement, it was discovered that prosecuting offenders with dual state residencies had become a concern of Oregon District Attorneys and they had become reluctant to prosecute wildlife offenders that fit into the dual state category. The new language in the bill changes the residency definition that a resident is a person who has physically resided in Oregon for not less than six consecutive months immediately prior to the date of making application for a license, tag or permit issued by the State Fish and Wildlife Commission. It further defines a resident as not someone who merely owns real property or pays property taxes in this state, or who has resident privileges in another state or county for any purpose.

Update: The bill has passed the House and the Senate. The bill now goes to the

office of the Governor for her signature.

HB 2548 Wildlife Corridor Funding

Directs the Legislative Policy and Research Office to study issues related to funding construction of wildlife corridor road crossings and report to legislature its findings on or before Sept. 15, 2022.

Update: The bill had a work session in March in the House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources. A committee was formed and has met numerous times to discuss funding options for Wildlife Corridors. The committee continues to meet.

HB 2728 Coyote Contests

The 2021 version has an amendment that protects certain aspects of nonprofit contests (Section 5 of the bill lines 17-19). The bill prohibits a person from conducting or participating in a contest, competition, tournament, or derby that has the objective of taking coyotes for cash or prizes. Provides that prohibition does not apply to raffles conducted by nonprofit organizations if the organization does not award raffle prizes based on number, weight or size of coyotes taken. Punishes violation of prohibition by maximum fine of \$2,000.

Update: The bill passed the House. The bill is in the Senate Committee on Energy and Environment and did not make it past the deadline for a hearing and work session. The bill is dead.

HB 2543 Firearm Transfer Prohibition

Prohibits transfer of firearms by gun dealers or private parties if OSP is unable to determine whether recipient is qualified to receive a firearm.

Update: OHA opposes this bill, which was passed out of committee and went to the House Committee on Rules. The bill was then referred back to committee.

Gun bills combined, watered down

The House Rules Committee has combined SB-544 and HB-2510 into one bill. The provisions in SB-544, which would have banned guns in state buildings and allowed local governments to pass their own bans, were curbed significantly. The amended bill would limit a new ban to the state Capitol, and only allow K-12 schools, community colleges and universities to enact bans. Local governments would not have that ability. Guns are already prohibited in most public buildings in Oregon, but an exemption exists for concealed handgun licenses (CHL). It is those permit holders that the new provisions would impact.

The penalty for a violation was reduced from a class C felony to a class A misdemeanor. The fee for renewal of a concealed handgun license was reduced from \$100 to \$75.

The provisions of HB-2510, the so called "safe storage bill" which were amended into the combined bill, were also modified. The new amendments remove the "strict liability" standard for lawsuits that result from a stolen gun being used to cause injuries or deaths if the theft was not reported.

Minors' use of firearms is still regulated, with limited exemptions for hunting and target shooting.

Hunters will want to pay close attention to the provisions for safe transportation, transfers and use by minors.

The combined bill, SB-544 with the A-36 amendments, has passed the House and the Senate. The bill now goes to the office of the Governor for her signature.

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To learn more about these bills, visit www.oregonlegislature.gov/bills_laws

IP 13 would ban hunting in Oregon

Oregon is facing an attack on animal agriculture, hunting, fishing, and trapping. Initiative Petition 13 would not only criminalize animal agriculture, making it virtually impossible to raise livestock, but it would also make hunting, fishing, and trapping activities illegal and classified as animal abuse. This may sound like

a far-fetched idea, but these groups are highly motivated, well funded and adept at making these extreme prohibitions sound appealing to the urban populace.

OHA is engaging on IP13 on a variety of fronts and working with other sports groups and agricultural associations to combat this extreme measure.

OHA mailer raises awareness of need for safer wildlife passage solutions

By Tyler Dungannon, Conservation Coordinator
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OHA recognizes that Oregon has a major problem regarding vehicle collisions with deer and elk on our highways statewide. The number of animals killed on ODOT highways alone is estimated in the range of 21,000 to 35,000 per year.

Pew Charitable Trusts partnered with OHA in May to fund a 6,000-unit mailer to Sports Pac holders in specific counties where wildlife collisions are all too common (Jackson, Josephine, Douglas, Coos, Klamath and Deschutes).

Enclosed was a summary of the roadkill deer and elk that ODOT collected within specific stretches of highway that locals know well, along with a collision map illustrating the extent of the issue, a Protect Animal Migration brochure, and specific asks for sportsmen to support a state migration policy and wildlife passage projects via purchase of Watch for Wildlife license plate vouchers available at MyOWF.org.

This is a statewide issue, and OHA will plan similar efforts across the state in the near future.

OHA reaches out to new commissioner

By Amy Patrick, OHA Outreach Coordinator
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With the re-appointment of Bob Spelbrink in February and the new appointment of Dr. Kathayoon Khalil last month, the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission is back to full capacity at seven members.

Prior to the most recent appointment, the Commission had been operating with a vacant seat and two expired members. The remaining expired member, Greg Wolley, whose term was up in May 2020, will remain on the Commission until the Governor brings forth a nomination for his position.

Dr. Khalil will serve in the Westside At-Large seat and resides in Congressional District 5 in the Portland-metro area.

OHA staff is actively working to assist her in getting up to speed with the myriad of topics she will face as a commissioner, and we look forward to working with her in the future.




OHA chapter banquets change dates, formats

Some OHA chapters have moved banquet dates and others have gone online. Please call the numbers listed for the latest info.

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| TBA | Baker | 541-403-0402 |
| TBA | Blue Mountain | 541-231-4384 |
| June 5 | Redmond | 541-233-3740 |
| June 5 | Columbia County | 949-533-7271 |
| June 9-13 | Klamath | ohaklamath.maestroweb.com |
| June 19 | Mid-Willamette | 541-971-3351 |
| 6/19-7/4 | Lake online | ohalakecounty.cbo.io |
| July 31 | Capitol (online) | 503-851-8409 |
| Aug. 7 | OHA State Convention, Seven Feathers Casino | 541-772-7313 www.oregonhunters.org |
| Aug 21 | Tualatin Valley | 503-502-0611 |

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CITADEL 1911 FLAG GRIP 9mm. \$599

Maximum tickets offered: 1,000. Drawing: 2 p.m., Dec. 30, 2021, OHA State Office, 804 Bennett Ave., Medford, OR