

MEASURE NO. ____

**CRIMINALIZES BREEDING PRACTICES, INJURING/KILLING ANIMALS,
INCLUDING FOR FOOD, HUNTING, FISHING. CREATES TRANSITION FUND.
EXCEPTIONS**

Explanation

Oregon prohibits animal abuse. Several lawful activities that may result in injury or death of any nonhuman mammal, bird, reptile, amphibian, or fish are currently exempted in statute. Ballot Measure XX proposes removing the exemptions for lawful activities, including:

- The treatment of livestock being transported by owner or common carrier
- Animals involved in rodeos or similar exhibitions
- Commercially grown poultry
- Animals subject to good animal husbandry practices
- The killing of livestock according to the provisions of ORS 603.065 (Slaughter methods)
- Lawful fishing, hunting and trapping activities
- Wildlife management practices under color of law
- Lawful scientific or agricultural research or teaching that involves the use of animals
- Reasonable activities undertaken in connection with the control of vermin or pests; and
- Reasonable handling and training techniques.

The measure does not remove the existing exemption allowing good veterinary practices. The measure adds a new exemption allowing for the defense of self or other humans or animals.

The measure expands the crime of sexual assault to include common breeding practices such as artificial insemination.

The measure establishes a transition fund to provide financial assistance for job losses, lost income, and food assistance for people in effected industries. The Legislative Assembly is required to identify funding sources for transition fund.

Effects of the measure

Creates immediate conflict with federal law establishing harvest rights for Tribal nations. Criminalizes Tribal cultural practices such as harvesting foods and sourcing materials for subsistence and ceremonial practices.

Ends all recreational hunting and fishing, including catch and release practices. Removes Oregonian's ability to source wild protein.

Ends commercial fishing, closing industries vital to Oregon's coastal economies.

Prohibits processing of Oregon-raised proteins. Meat, poultry, dairy, eggs, and seafood could not be locally grown, harvested, or available for purchase.

Criminalizes practical pest control. Restaurants, hospitals, grocery stores, schools, warehouses, grain facilities, and food processors routinely control rats, mice, pigeons, and other vertebrate pests to protect public health and food safety.

Ends significant educational activities related to animals. Current practices from FFA and 4-H to veterinary sciences at universities would be significantly altered or prohibited. Important research activities would also be completely banned.

Reduces the Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife budget. Cuts approximately 70% of agency budget including loss of 1190 positions, effectively eliminating necessary wildlife management, including efforts to maintain wildlife health, invasive species response, and response to zoonotic diseases.

Reduces state agency revenue and increase enforcement costs. The measure will require new law enforcement and criminal justice resources. Expanding criminal liability to current lawful activities will require additional state and local enforcement and prosecution expenses.

Creates legal ambiguity. Changes criminal statute, exemptions and potentially defenses, requiring new interpretations and decision to determine criminality. Generates legal uncertainty regarding transportation and management of animals.

Creates uncertainty for routine animal care. Humane euthanasia and accepted livestock management practices may be considered animal abuse.