

**THIS EXPLANATION HAS NOT BEEN
REVIEWED OR APPROVED BY THE
LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL COMMITTEE.**

MEASURE NO. _____

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

Submitted to the Electorate of Oregon by Initiative Petition to be voted on at the General Election, November 3, 2026.

Explanation

By the Legislative Counsel Committee pursuant to ORS 251.225.

Ballot Measure XX changes Oregon laws relating to animal abuse, animal neglect and sexual assault of animals.

Under current Oregon law, activities that injure or kill an animal are generally unlawful, but there are exemptions that allow certain activities that can result in injury or death of an animal, such as rodeos; commercially growing poultry; livestock slaughtering; fishing, hunting and trapping; wildlife management practices; scientific or agricultural research or teaching; control of vermin or pests; reasonable handling and training techniques; and good animal husbandry practices.

Ballot Measure XX removes those exemptions and makes those activities criminal offenses if they cause the injury or death of any nonhuman mammal, bird, reptile, amphibian or fish. The ballot measure keeps an existing exemption that allows acts constituting good veterinary practices and adds a new exemption that allows acts necessary for the defense of self or other humans or animals. The ballot measure expands the crime of sexual assault of an animal to include touching or contacting an animal for the purpose of impregnation or masturbation of the animal. The ballot measure reclassifies certain offenses from felonies to misdemeanors and requires offenders to complete supervised community service in lieu of any other penalty imposed by law. The ballot measure redirects certain existing subsidies into a new fund that provides financial assistance to individuals

1 and organizations impacted by implementation of the ballot measure, including
2 grants for food assistance, lost income, job retraining, animal care and
3 conservation efforts.
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