

SB 5274 - DIGEST

Recognizes the importance of the state's commercial livestock industry and the value of healthy wildlife populations, which can damage crops and commercial livestock.

Finds that damage prevention is key to maintaining healthy wildlife populations and a thriving commercial livestock industry, and that the state, participants in wildlife recreation, and private landowners and tenants share the responsibility for damage prevention.

Declares that a timely and simplified process for resolving claims for damages caused by wildlife for commercial agricultural, horticultural, or commercial livestock products is beneficial to the claimant and the state.

Authorizes the director of the department of fish and wildlife or the director's designee to distribute money appropriated to reimburse the owner of commercial livestock that has been killed by predatory wildlife, or injured by predatory wildlife to such a degree that the market value of the commercial livestock has been diminished, if during the current fiscal biennium the department of fish and wildlife has received appropriations from either the state wildlife account or the general fund above the amounts specified in RCW 77.36.070 and 77.36.080 for the reimbursement of damage to commercial livestock.

Creates the commercial livestock valuation committee to assist the director of the department of fish and wildlife with the determination of the market value of killed or injured commercial livestock for the purposes of reimbursing the owner under RCW 77.36.040.