

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HOUSE BILL NO. 592

BY WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE

AN ACT

1 RELATING TO DEPREDATION; AMENDING CHAPTER 11, TITLE 36, IDAHO CODE, BY THE
2 ADDITION OF A NEW SECTION 36-1121, IDAHO CODE, TO PROVIDE LEGISLATIVE
3 INTENT, TO PROVIDE FOR COMPENSATION FOR DEPREDATION OF LIVESTOCK BY
4 GRIZZLY BEAR AND WOLVES, TO PROVIDE FOR A FUND AND APPROPRIATION, TO
5 PROVIDE A PROCESS FOR COMPENSATION, AND TO DEFINE A TERM; AND DECLARING
6 AN EMERGENCY AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.
7

8 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Idaho:

9 SECTION 1. That Chapter 11, Title 36, Idaho Code, be, and the same is
10 hereby amended by the addition thereto of a NEW SECTION, to be known and des-
11 ignated as Section 36-1121, Idaho Code, and to read as follows:

12 36-1121. LIVESTOCK DEPREDATION BY GRIZZLY BEAR AND WOLVES. (1) It is
13 the intent of the legislature to provide compensation to livestock owners
14 that have experienced depredation of livestock by grizzly bear and wolves.

15 (2) The Idaho state department of agriculture, in consultation with the
16 department of fish and game and the office of species conservation, is autho-
17 rized to carry out the purposes of this section and has spending authority
18 for compensation pursuant to this section to the extent of legislative ap-
19 propriation. The depredation of livestock and prevention fund is hereby es-
20 tablished in the state treasury. All expenditures from the fund will be paid
21 according to rules promulgated by the Idaho state department of agriculture.
22 Beginning on July 1, 2024, and each July 1 thereafter, the legislature shall
23 appropriate two hundred twenty-five thousand dollars (\$225,000) annually
24 to the fund. One hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$150,000) of that amount
25 shall be used annually to compensate validated claims for depredation, and
26 seventy-five thousand dollars (\$75,000) of that amount shall be used an-
27 nually for conflict prevention and the provision of information regarding
28 deterrents that have proven effective as determined pursuant to rule as pro-
29 mulgated by the Idaho state department of agriculture. All claims shall be
30 made to the office of species conservation on or before December 31 of each
31 year. Validated claims for depredation shall be paid on a pro rata basis in
32 the event moneys in the fund are insufficient to pay all validated claims in
33 full, until such time as moneys in the fund are depleted. Any moneys in the
34 fund after payment of validated claims shall then be paid to those livestock
35 owners with probable claims for depredation on a pro rata basis in the event
36 moneys in the fund are insufficient to pay all probable claims in full, until
37 such moneys in the fund are depleted. Any moneys in the fund after probable
38 depredation claims are paid shall be carried over to the next calendar year.
39 Interest accruing on moneys in the fund shall be retained in the fund. Moneys
40 shall be continuously appropriated to the fund, but the fund shall not exceed
41 four hundred thousand dollars (\$400,000).

1 (3) Compensation for claims validated or deemed probable shall be based
2 on current fair market value as provided by the Idaho state department of
3 agriculture. Any other compensation paid to a livestock owner for depreda-
4 tion shall be deducted from the fair market value prior to payment.

5 (4) For purposes of this section, "livestock" means cattle, sheep,
6 goat, swine, poultry, bees, llamas, or equine animals used for food or in the
7 production of food, fiber, feed, or other agriculture-based consumer prod-
8 ucts, domesticated game, or other nonplant life; such term shall not include
9 aquatic animals.

10 SECTION 2. An emergency existing therefor, which emergency is hereby
11 declared to exist, this act shall be in full force and effect on and after
12 July 1, 2024.