

2007 Regular Legislative Session
FISCAL ANALYSIS OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION
Prepared by the Oregon Legislative Fiscal Office

MEASURE NUMBER: SB 892 **STATUS:** Original
SUBJECT: Establishes a youth hunter mentoring program
GOVERNMENT UNIT AFFECTED: Department of Fish and Wildlife
PREPARED BY: Dawn Farr
REVIEWED BY: Paul Siebert
DATE: April 2, 2007

EXPENDITURES: See Comments.

REVENUES: See Comments.

EFFECTIVE DATE: January 1, 2008

GOVERNOR'S BUDGET: This bill is not anticipated by the Governor's recommended budget.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT MANDATE: This bill does not affect local governments' service levels or shared revenues sufficient to trigger Section 15, Article XI of the Oregon Constitution.

COMMENTS: The bill directs the State Fish and Wildlife Commission to prescribe and administer a youth hunting mentoring program that allows a person 9 years of age or older to hunt while in the presence of a supervisory hunter who is 21 or older. Only one lawful hunting weapon may be carried during a supervised hunt between the youth and adult hunter.

Currently, a youth under the age of 12 cannot hunt big game. Youth ages 12 to 17 are authorized to hunt only after obtaining a Hunter Education Certificate, license and tag. The bill provides an option to youth ages 9-17 to hunt without a certificate, license or tag under certain conditions.

The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) anticipates that start-up costs associated with prescribing and administering a youth hunting mentoring program would be minimal. ODFW indicates that program development would be accomplished by rulemaking and marketing through the department's current hunter outreach program. These activities can be assumed with existing resources.

If the bill passes, ODFW believes that some youth may not purchase licenses, and that the mentoring program may entice additional adult hunters to buy licenses if hunting is perceived to be more family-friendly. As a result, the net revenue impact is indeterminate.