

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: No fiscal impact

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<b>Action:</b>	Do Pass as Amended and Be Printed Engrossed
<b>Vote:</b>	8 - 0 - 1
<b>Yeas:</b>	Bonamici, Bruun, Cannon, Flores, Gelser, Kotek, Richardson, Greenlick
<b>Nays:</b>	0
<b>Exc.:</b>	Maurer
<b>Prepared By:</b>	Sandy Thiele-Cirka, Administrator
<b>Meeting Dates:</b>	5/3 (Policy sub), 5/8 (Full)

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:** Allows licensed physician assistant to give written certification for person to be considered person with disability under wildlife laws. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Current authority extends to licensed physician or certified nurse practitioner
- Effect of measure in rural areas
- Specific requirements to be considered disabled under wildlife laws
- Department of Fish and Wildlife supportive of the measure

**EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:** Adds emergency clause.

**BACKGROUND:** Physician assistants provide comprehensive health care for patients in all areas of Oregon. Many times, a physician assistant is the only healthcare provider available, and patients are limited if physician assistants are prohibited from signing disability forms for Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW).

Currently, ODFW only accepts disability certifications from licensed physicians or certified nurse practitioners. ODFW issues Oregon Disabilities Hunting and Fishing permits to individuals with disabilities that permit hunting from a parked motor vehicle on non-public roads, more liberal bag limits, and permission to receive assistance from an able-bodied companion while hunting. ODFW also offers a free combination hunting and angling license to veterans with at least a 25 percent disability.