

REVENUE: Revenue statement issued

FISCAL: Fiscal statement issued

Action:	Do Pass the A-Engrossed Measure
Vote:	4 - 1 - 0
Yeas:	Atkinson, Hass, Prozanski, Dingfelder
Nays:	Boquist
Exc.:	0
Prepared By:	Beth Herzog, Administrator
Meeting Dates:	5/14

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Increases surcharge for resident and non-resident licenses to from \$2 to \$4 and extends sunset on all surcharges for 10 years to December 31, 2019. Increases from \$2 to \$4 surcharge on sportsperson licenses credited to Access and Habitat Fund. Directs Fish and Wildlife Commission to consider recommendations from director from a list of at least five people submitted by state Forester and Director of Agriculture in making appointments to Access and Habitat Board (Board). Effective December 30, 2009.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- During 2007 – 2009 biennium, Access and Habitat Program had 58 projects providing access to 4 million acres of land to hunters
- Challenge to find fifteen people willing to serve on Board in order to fill one position

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

BACKGROUND: In 1993, the Legislative Assembly created the Access and Habitat Program and adopted a surcharge on hunting and combination licenses to fund the program. The Access and Habitat Program funds habitat improvement projects; increases public hunting access on private lands; and creates working partnerships between landowners, hunters and the Department of Fish and Wildlife. An Access and Habitat Board, made up of landowner and hunter representatives along with one at-large member, reviews projects and makes recommendations for funding to the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission. The last statutory change placed a \$2 surcharge on resident and nonresident licenses and a \$1 surcharge on juvenile licenses. The current license surcharges sunset on December 31, 2009. House Bill 2218A increases the surcharge from \$2 to \$4 for resident and non-resident licenses and extends the sunset on all surcharges for 10 years to December 31, 2019.