

SB 116 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Veterans and Emergency Preparedness

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Meeting Dates: 3/21, 4/4

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Requires free use of state forest lands where recreation is permitted, for active duty personnel on leave on Memorial Day, Independence Day and Veterans Day, and year-round for any disabled veteran. Requires agreement between Departments of Forestry and State Parks and Recreation and for State Parks and Recreation to issue an interagency access pass.

FISCAL: May have fiscal impact, but no statement yet issued

REVENUE: May have revenue impact, but no statement yet issued

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

[-1 amendment] Replaces original measure with substantially same effect: requires Forestry to honor existing State Park's pass issued to veterans.

BACKGROUND:

Oregon offers a wide range of outdoor recreational opportunities, which attracts veterans and other residents. Oregon's Department of Fish and Wildlife currently offers a permanent combined hunting and fishing license for qualifying disabled veterans, and the State Parks and Recreation Department (Parks and Recreation) provides free day use and camping at RV and tent sites year-round for disabled veterans and for U.S. Armed Forces active duty personnel on leave on Memorial Day, Independence Day and Veterans Day.

Senate Bill 116 provides similar free access to state *forest* lands (where recreation is already permitted) as is currently available to disabled veterans and active duty personnel at state parks. The measure also requires the Oregon Department of Forestry and Parks and Recreation to enter into an agreement for this purpose, and for Parks and Recreation to issue a particular access pass.