

SB 27

Relating to aviation registration

Current law requires pilots operating aircraft in Oregon to register with the Oregon Department of Aviation, and to pay a pilot registration fee. The fee revenues are deposited into the Aviation Search and Rescue Account, and used to fund the Search and Rescue Program administered by the Office of Emergency Management.

SB 27 deletes the requirement for pilots to register, deletes the pilot registration fee, and abolishes the Aviation Search and Rescue Account. The rationale for the bill is that state-level pilot registration does not provide public safety benefits above and beyond those provided by Federal Aviation Administration certification. All pilots are required to obtain FAA certification, which requires passing both written and practical tests.

In its budget bill (SB 5504), the Department of Aviation proposes to continue funding for the Search and Rescue Program using aircraft registration fees.

The amendment changes the effective date of the bill to July 1, 2017 to align with the start of the fiscal year.

The Transportation and Economic Development Subcommittee recommends SB 27 be amended by the –1 amendment and be reported out do pass, as amended.