79th Oregon Legislative Assembly – 2017 Regular Session Legislative Fiscal Office

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Measure Description:

Authorizes State Fish and Wildlife Commission to adopt adult hunter mentoring program.

Government Unit(s) Affected:

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW)

Analysis:

HB 2566-A raises the age under which a person may participate in the agency's youth hunter mentoring program, from 14 to 16. Currently, the youth hunter mentoring program allows a person between the ages of 9 and 14 to hunt while in the presence of a supervisory hunter, who is at least 21 years of age, and hold the appropriate licenses, tags, and permits. Under this program, the person between the ages of 9 and 14 may participate in a supervised hunt under the same conditions applicable to the supervisory hunter's licenses, tags, and permits.

The fiscal impact to the Department is indeterminate due to the unknown number of persons between the ages of 14 and 16 who choose to participate in the Department's youth hunter mentoring program, instead of purchasing their own licenses, tags, and permits. Depending on the number of persons between the ages of 14 and 16 who choose to participate in the youth hunter mentoring program, this bill may result in a reduction of fee revenue to the Department. However, if this change in the mentoring program encouraged youth that might otherwise not participate in hunting to participate, and they continued to do so after the age of 16, this change could lead to some increase in revenues from licenses, tags, and permits.