

SB 116 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Veterans and Emergency Preparedness

Prepared By: Bradley Volk, LPRO Analyst

Meeting Dates: 5/4, 6/1

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Requires Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) to honor existing State Parks and Recreation Department (SPRD) access pass issued to disabled veterans and to persons on leave from active duty military status on specific holidays, and to the extent possible, to permit access to recreation areas on forest lands free of charge.

FISCAL: Minimal fiscal impact

REVENUE: No revenue impact

Vote in Senate: Ayes 30

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Oregon offers a wide range of outdoor recreational opportunities, which attracts veterans and other residents. The Oregon 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 (SPRD) provides free day use and camping at RV and tent sites year-round for disabled veterans and for persons on leave from military active duty status on Memorial Day, Independence Day and Veterans Day.

Senate Bill 116-A provides similar free access for disabled veterans and to persons on leave from military active duty status to recreation areas on state *forest* lands, by directing the Oregon Department of Forestry to honor the access pass already issued by SPRD.