

SB 27 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Business and Transportation

Action Date: 02/06/17

Action: Do pass and requesting referral to Ways and Means.

Vote: 5-0-0-0

Yeas: 5 - Beyer, Girod, Monroe, Riley, Thomsen

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: Revenue impact issued

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WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Deletes requirement for pilots to register with the Oregon Department of Aviation. Abolishes the Aviation Search and Rescue Account. Takes effect on 91st day following adjournment sine die.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Revenue reduction can be balanced from other fees, such as aircraft registration
- Savings in staff time
- Changes in general aviation industry

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) requires that individuals acting as the pilot in command of an aircraft first obtain an FAA-issued pilot certificate. Certification is required for each of several categories of aircraft (airplane, rotorcraft, glider, etc.), and certification is granted in one of several privilege levels ranging from student pilot to commercial airline transport pilot.

Under current law, pilots operating aircraft within Oregon borders must also register with the Oregon Department of Aviation (ODA) within 60 days of obtaining an effective federal certificate, including nonresident pilots operating aircraft within Oregon (commercial airline pilots are exempt, provided that they operate aircraft only as part of commercial service). Initial registration costs \$24 for one year, with each subsequent renewal costing \$48 per biennium. Revenues from pilot registrations are placed within the Aviation Search and Rescue Account and are used by the Office of Emergency Management (OEM) to repay expenses for searching for lost aircraft and persons and for expenses relating to search and rescue and pilot survival training.

Oregon is one of three states that require state pilot registration. The Department believes that pilot registration is redundant in that Oregon's requirements do not exceed those of the FAA. Senate Bill 27 removes the requirement that pilots register with ODA and abolishes the Aviation Search and Rescue Account.