

SB 643 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Environment and Natural Resources

Action Date: 04/17/17

Action: Do pass with amendments and requesting referral to Rules. (Printed A-Engrossed.)

Vote: 5-0-0-0

Yeas: 5 - Dembrow, Linthicum, Olsen, Prozanski, Roblan

Fiscal: Has minimal fiscal impact

Revenue: No revenue impact

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WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Requires outfitter or guide using boats to carry passengers on any section of river rated Class III or higher to offer to all passengers a helmet that meets the standards established by the Marine Board by rule.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Risk associated with outdoor sporting activities
- Potential issues with enforcing a helmet requirement
- Other boating safety equipment requirements

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

Replaces measure.

BACKGROUND:

Rivers and river segments are rated using roman numerals I to VI according to an International Scale of River Difficulty. Class III waters are described, in part, as having "rapids with moderate, irregular waves which may be difficult to avoid and which can swamp an open canoe." (American Whitewater) ORS 830.215 requires a person operating a boat on any section of water rated Class III or higher, and all passengers in the boat, to wear a properly secured personal floatation device. ORS 704.070 requires an outfitter and guide operating a non-motorized boat carrying passengers on waters rated as Class III or higher, and all passengers in the boat, to wear personal floatation devices.

Senate Bill 643A would require an outfitter or guide using a boat to carry passengers on any section of river rated Class III or higher to offer to all passengers a helmet that meets the standards established by the Oregon Marine Board.