

SB 1517 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Veterans and Emergency Preparedness

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Meeting Dates: 2/27

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Allows the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife to issue up to 20 big game hunting tags annually, free of charge, to nonprofit organizations for use by disabled and combat-wounded veterans. Specifies maximum number of tags that may be issued for specific species, limits each organizations to five tags per year, and limits each eligible veteran to one tag per year.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) is tasked with the regulation of hunting and angling within the state of Oregon. Currently, ODFW sets aside 35 free hunting tags for organizations that sponsor hunting trips for terminally ill children. Since the program's inception, no more than eleven tags have been accessed in any given year.

Senate Bill 1517 allows groups that sponsor hunting trips for eligible disabled and combat-wounded veterans to access unused tags within the scope of the existing program. ODFW is directed to issue 15 of the existing 35 free tags to groups that organize hunting trips for eligible children and the remaining 20 to groups that organize hunting trips for eligible veterans. The measure also allows either type of organization to access any tags that remain unused immediately prior to the relevant season.