

SB 1517 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Carrier: Sen. Hansell

Senate Committee On Veterans and Emergency Preparedness

Action Date: 02/14/18

Action: Do pass.

Vote: 4-0-0-0

Yeas: 4 - Boquist, Manning Jr, Monnes Anderson, Olsen

Fiscal: Has minimal fiscal impact

Revenue: Has minimal revenue impact

Prepared By: C. Ross, LPRO Analyst

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Allows the Department of Fish and Wildlife to issue up to 20 big game hunting tags per year to certain nonprofit entities for use by eligible combat and disabled veterans.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Sharing the existing amount of tags between terminally-ill children and disabled veterans
- Not impacting the existing program

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

The Department of Fish and Wildlife currently operates a program to provide terminally-ill children with hunting and fishing opportunities at no charge, by issuing a certain number of tags to nonprofit entities that organize and sponsor such adventures.

Senate Bill 1517 is modeled after this program, to provide hunting opportunities to disabled veterans and Purple Heart recipients. A maximum of five tags may be issued to each eligible nonprofit, limited to 20 tags overall, for black bear, deer, elk, or pronghorn antelope. The total number of tags for black bear, deer, or elk in a given season, are each limited to 10; the total number of tags for antelope is limited to five; and eligible veterans may only receive one tag per year. The measure also caps the total number of tags made available to terminally-ill children at 15, and allows each program - the program for children and the program for veterans - to access the other's unused tags if they are still available 30 days prior to the relevant season.