



Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

State Marine Board
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February 5, 2019

House Committee on Natural Resources

Chair Representative Brad Witt
Vice-Chair Representative Chris Gorsek
Vice-Chair Representative Sherrie Sprenger
Representative Greg Barreto
Representative Caddy McKeown
Representative Jeff Reardon
Representative David Brock Smith

Dear Chair Witt, Vice-Chair Gorsek, Vice-Chair Sprenger and Members:

RE: HB 2652 Requires outfitters and guides to rent, sell or otherwise make available helmets

The Oregon State Marine Board does not have a position on this bill. The information provided is in response to questions about the dynamic nature of rivers as it relate to rapids classification levels.

The Revised Statute the Committee may find relevant is:

ORS 704.070 Requirements for safety equipment, experience and training. (1) (c) If the outfitter and guide operates non-motorized boats carrying passengers on any section of waters rated as class III or higher on commonly accepted scale of river difficulty, require that all persons physically providing outfitting guide services:

The statutory language referenced in ORS 704.070(1)(c) "...on any section of waters rated as class III or higher on a commonly accepted scale of river difficulty" has existed in statute and would apply to the changes sought in HB 2652.

While it doesn't speak directly to the changing nature of rapids, the existing language has provided opportunity for enforcement, education and outreach, and is a term which guide companies can easily relate to their clients and is generally understood within whitewater recreation communities.

If I may provide any additional information or clarification, I can be reached at (503) 378-2617.

Sincerely,

Larry Warren
Director

