

SB 308 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Veterans and Emergency Preparedness

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Sub-Referral To: Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Meeting Dates: 2/13

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Requires Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD) to develop a means to test changes to its campsite reservation process to improve access for service-disabled veterans. Directs OPRD to convene an advisory committee to assist, comprised of service-disabled veterans in possession of a Special Access Pass, and a representative from the Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs, at a minimum, and report to the Legislature by September 15, 2021. Sunsets January 2, 2023. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- OPRD seeking input from disabled veterans about changes to reservation system
- Amendment to eliminate potential fiscal impact
- Rescinding subsequent referral

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

[-1 amendment] Refines language, modifying advisory committee's role to research and recommend changes to OPRD's reservation system and makes OPRD's development of means to test recommended changes, discretionary.

BACKGROUND:

Oregon boasts a wide range of outdoor recreational opportunities and improves the participation of eligible disabled veterans in a number of ways, including: offering a permanent combined hunting and fishing license through Oregon Fish and Wildlife; free day use and camping at RV and tent sites year-round for service-connected disabled veterans using a Special Access Pass; and refunds for such use by U.S. Armed Forces active duty personnel on leave on Memorial Day, Independence Day and Veterans Day, available through the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD).

Senate Bill 308 requires OPRD to develop a means to test changes to its campsite reservation process to improve access for service-disabled veterans. OPRD must convene an advisory committee to assist with development, comprised of service-disabled veterans in possession of a Special Access Pass, and a representative from the Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs, at a minimum, and report to the Legislature by September 15, 2021.