

SB 588 -1, -2 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Health Care

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Meeting Dates: 3/27, 4/3

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Establishes the Outdoor Therapy Grant Program with the State Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD) for the purpose of providing grants to enhance outdoor environmental, ecological, agricultural and other natural resource-based therapy programs in the state. Requires OPRD's Office of Outdoor Recreation to develop application form and criteria to determine eligibility of grant applicants and proposed projects. Establishes Outdoor Therapy Grant Program Fund in the State Treasury. Takes effect on the 91st day following adjournment sine die.

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Fiscal statement issued

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Prospective funding through donations

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-1 Requires interest earned in Outdoor Therapy Grant Program Fund (Fund) to be credited to the Fund. Allows moneys in the Fund to be invested and reinvested. Continuously appropriates moneys in the Fund to the State Parks and Recreation Department.

-2 Requires interest earned in Outdoor Therapy Grant Program Fund (Fund) to be credited to the Fund. Continuously appropriates moneys in the Fund to the State Parks and Recreation Department.

BACKGROUND:

Outdoor therapy programs use wilderness experiences in conjunction with behavioral health service to help meet the therapeutic needs of individual. Studies have found that individuals treated with outdoor therapy have improved emotional and behavioral outcomes in comparison to alternative and no treatment comparison groups.

Senate Bill 588 establishes the Outdoor Therapy Grant Program within the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department for the purpose of providing grants to enhance outdoor environmental, ecological, agricultural and other natural resource-based therapy programs in Oregon.