

HB 2652 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Environment and Natural Resources

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Meeting Dates: 4/25, 5/2

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Requires outfitters and guides operating on class III or higher waters to rent, sell, or otherwise make available helmets to all passengers. Requires helmets meet standards established by State Marine Board. Refers to bill as the Sharon Birge Memorial Whitewater Helmet Act.

Minimal fiscal impact; no revenue impact

House vote: Ayes, 56; Nays, 1--Evans; Excused, 2--Meek, Smith G; Excused for Business of the House, 1--Rayfield

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Requirement to make helmets available on Class III water and above
- Offering choice for passengers who wish to use helmets
- Businesses that have helmets for insurance purposes and require children to wear helmets
- Other activities requiring helmets

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Oregon law requires boat outfitters and guides to carry equipment such as first-aid, life jackets, light and smoke flares, and running lights. "Outfitters and guides," as defined in ORS 704.010, include any person compensated for providing or offering outfitting and guiding services in this state or any person who holds federal special use permits for commercial outfitting and guiding.

House Bill 2652 A would require outfitters and guides operating on class III or higher waters to rent, sell, or otherwise make available helmets to all passengers.