

FISCAL IMPACT OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION

Measure: SB 588 - A

80th Oregon Legislative Assembly – 2019 Regular Session
Legislative Fiscal Office

*Only Impacts on Original or Engrossed
Versions are Considered Official*

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Measure Description:

Establishes Outdoor Therapy Grant Program within State Parks and Recreation Department for purpose of awarding grants to enhance outdoor environmental, ecological, agricultural or other natural resource-based therapy programs serving residents of this state.

Government Unit(s) Affected:

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD)

Summary of Fiscal Impact:

Costs related to the measure are indeterminate at this time - See explanatory analysis.

Analysis:

The legislation establishes the Outdoor Therapy Grant Program within the Office of Outdoor Recreation, Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD), to enhance outdoor environmental, ecological, agricultural, and other natural resource-based therapy programs. Grant applicant eligibility includes consideration for matching and in-kind resources. All grant amounts awarded must be used by recipients within three years of receipt and any funds not expended within that time must be returned to the Outdoor Therapy Grant Program Fund. The Program becomes operative on January 2, 2020.

The fiscal impact of this measure is indeterminate, because the budgetary scope of the program is undefined. Once the funding source and amount for grant awards is established, as well as any caps on grant awards, then workload and staffing impacts can be more accurately estimated. The Office of Outdoor Recreation currently has 1 full-time position (1.00 FTE); it is unknown if the existing position will be able to absorb the workload associated with this legislation or if the agency will need to hire an additional Grant Coordinator position to establish rules and manage the grant processes. The legislation will result in one-time costs information technology builds to OPRD's existing online grant management system as well as service and supply costs associated with advisory committee support.

The Legislative Fiscal Office (LFO) notes that the measure establishes a fund for which revenue sources have yet to be identified. In addition to requiring OPRD to dedicate staff and resources to the program and soliciting donations, the measure specifies that moneys in this fund can also come from the Legislative Assembly including the General Fund. LFO is concerned that if OPRD is unable to identify and successfully solicit non-state funding in support of the work required by this measure, this language may set unrealistic expectations for future General Fund requests. This legislation warrants a subsequent referral to the Joint Committee on Ways and Means for consideration of its budgetary impact on Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD).