

SB 588 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Health Care

Action Date: 04/03/19

Action: Do pass with amendments and requesting referral to Ways and Means. (Printed A-Engrossed.)

Vote: 5-0-0-0

Yeas: 5 - Beyer, Fagan, Knopp, Linthicum, Monnes Anderson

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: No revenue impact

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Meeting Dates: 3/27, 4/3

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Establishes the Outdoor Therapy Grant Program within the Oregon 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.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Demonstrated benefits for veterans suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder and other victims of trauma
- Prospective funding through donations
- Veterans Legacy program in Lane County

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

Requires interest earned in Outdoor Therapy Grant Program Fund (Fund) to be credited to the Fund. Continuously appropriates moneys in the Fund to the OPRD.

BACKGROUND:

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

Senate Bill 588-A establishes the Outdoor Therapy Grant Program within the Oregon State 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.