

SB 448 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Environment and Natural Resources

Action Date: 04/08/19

Action: Do pass with amendments. Refer to Ways and Means by prior reference. (Printed A-Eng).

Vote: 5-0-0-0

Yeas: 5 - Bentz, Dembrow, Olsen, Prozanski, Roblan

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: No revenue impact

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Meeting Dates: 2/21, 4/8

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Directs Office of Emergency Management (OEM) to establish and administer an outdoor recreation search and rescue card program. States program purpose is to allow people who engage in outdoor recreation to voluntarily contribute to the Oregon Search and Rescue Fund (Fund) by purchasing an Oregon outdoor recreation search and rescue card (card). Directs OEM to coordinate with the state Fish and Wildlife Commission (FWC), State Parks and Recreation Department (PRD) and any other state or federal agency or private retailer to make cards available to purchase at locations where other licenses, permits, and tags are sold. Makes card valid for one year. Allows OEM to issue multiyear card for a period not to exceed five years. Limits cost of annual card to not more than \$10 for an individual or \$25 for a family; cost of multiyear card is limited to not more than \$50 for an individual or \$125 for a family. Specifies agent's fee may not exceed \$1 for annual card or \$4 for multiyear card. Directs money collected for card sales, except agent fee, into Fund. Specifies that card purchase does not exempt person from liability for reimbursement under ORS 404.270 (reimbursement of public body for search and rescue by benefited persons). Establishes Fund. Directs money in Fund to be used to reimburse county sheriffs for costs incurred in performance of search and rescue activities; to administer and support annual county search and rescue grant program; and to pay the OEM administrative costs to carry out specified search and rescue responsibilities and this Act. Requires OEM director to adopt rules, after consultation with FWC, PRD, and other affected state agencies. Requires OEM to submit annual report to interim legislative committees on the administration and effectiveness of the card program. Establishes operative date of card program as January 1, 2020. Authorizes OEM director to take actions necessary prior to operative date in order to start program on operative date. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Lack of funding for search and rescue programs
- County-funded search and rescue activities are often needed for persons who are not county residents
- Counties with low resident populations and high numbers of tourists who come to recreate outdoors; search and rescue responsibilities in addition to other sheriff office duties
- Search and rescue card modeled on Colorado program

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

Replaces the measure.

BACKGROUND:

The Oregon Office of Emergency Management (OEM) operates the State Search and Rescue (SAR) Program to address the need to find people who become lost or injured recreating in the variety of outdoor activities for which Oregon is so well known. The purpose of the SAR program is to promote and assist in SAR activities throughout the state. To do so, SAR liaisons with the Oregon County Sheriff's Association Search and Rescue Advisory Council whose members represent the 36 county SAR coordinators.

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Senate Bill 448-A would direct the OEM to establish and administer an outdoor recreation search and rescue card program.