

SB 1543 -2 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Veterans

Prepared By: Michael Lantz, Counsel

Meeting Dates: 2/5, 2/10

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Allows certain facilities and programs to receive a free SportsPac license to conduct organized hunting, angling, and shellfish activities without purchasing additional individual licenses, tags, or other permits. Requires at least one staff person of facility or organization to be present during activities. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Efforts to assist veterans and returning service members
- Provision related to hunting
- Need for amendment

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-2 Replaces measure. Allows nonprofits, homes, and hospitals serving veterans or certain active duty military personnel to receive free group license to angle and harvest shellfish without permit, tag, or other endorsement. Requires staff member of organization to accompany participant. Limits veterans or active duty participant to three such events per year. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

BACKGROUND:

Under current Oregon law, a person seeking to hunt, fish, or harvest shellfish must purchase applicable licenses, tags, and permits. Uniformed service members, disabled veterans, youth, and seniors are all eligible for free or reduced licenses. Residents of Oregon also have the option of purchasing a SportsPac license, which includes fishing, shellfish, and hunting licenses as well as certain tags. The SportsPac license costs \$196.50 or \$206.25 with an associated Columbia River Basin Endorsement. Currently, organizations wanting to take groups or individuals hunting, fishing, or shellfish harvesting must purchase the proper licenses, tag, or permit for each individual.

Senate Bill 1543 creates a free group SportPac license that is available to certain nonprofits and other organizations, including Oregon Veterans' Homes, and allows these groups to take individuals they serve hunting, fishing, or shellfish harvesting without purchasing additional licenses, tags, or permits.