

SB 1543 A -A3 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Natural Resources

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Meeting Dates: 2/20, 2/25

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Allows nonprofit organizations, homes, and hospitals serving veterans or certain active duty military personnel to receive a free group license to angle and harvest shellfish without the need for individual permits, tags, or other endorsements for participants. Requires a staff member of the organization to accompany the participants. Limits veterans or active duty participants to three such events per year. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Has minimal fiscal impact

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-A3 Authorizes the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission to adopt rules for administration and enforcement, and authorizes the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife to suspend or cancel a group license if the license holder ceases to qualify or violates a commission rule.

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Has minimal fiscal impact

BACKGROUND:

Under current Oregon law, a person seeking to 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. Additionally, hospitals or homes run by the veteran's administration may apply for up to 30 angling and shellfish harvesting licenses for patients or residents per year. However, nonprofits and other organizations wanting to take groups or individuals fishing or shellfish harvesting must purchase the proper licenses, tag, or permit for each individual.

Senate Bill 1543-A would create a free group fishing and shellfish harvesting license that is available to nonprofit organizations, homes, and hospitals serving veterans and certain active duty personnel.