

HB 2593 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Veterans and Emergency Management

Prepared By: Cassie Passon, Counsel

Sub-Referral To: Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Meeting Dates: 2/4, 2/25

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Allows Office of Emergency Management (OEM) enter into agreement with nonprofit organization representing sheriffs, under which the organization is authorized to establish and administer program to produce and sell outdoor recreation search and rescue cards (card). States program purpose is to allow members of the public to make voluntary contributions to search and rescue efforts in Oregon by purchasing cards and making voluntary donations. Requires OEM to make annual report to Legislative Assembly on administration and effectiveness of card program, if OEM enters into agreement. 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). Makes card valid for one year. Allows organization 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 five percent of retail price of card. Directs organization to establish system for collecting revenues from card sales from authorized sellers, less any fees retained by authorized sellers and to create separate account for purposes of the card program. Allows organization to solicit and accept gifts, grants or donations from public or private sources for deposit in account. Directs money in account to be used to reimburse county sheriffs for search and rescue expenses; to issues grants to county sheriffs' offices for search and rescue; and to reimburse organization's administrative costs for card program, not to exceed 10 percent of aggregate revenues from card sales collected. Requires organization to report detailed accounting of revenues and expenditures related to the agreement to OEM once per quarter. Takes effect 91st day after *sine die*.

Subsequent referral to the Join Committee on Ways and Means

REVENUE: *No revenue impact*

FISCAL: *No fiscal impact*

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Funding needed to meet 21st century needs
- Resistance to current funding method of collecting \$500 from those rescued
- Number of missions within the state
- Inability to respond in a timely manner
- Sheriffs groups approve of the bill
- Program funded by users; not asking for state funding

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

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.

PRELIMINARY