

SB 534 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Veterans and Emergency Preparedness

Action Date: 02/18/21

Action: Without recommendation as to passage and be returned to President's desk for referral to another committee.

Vote: 3-1-0-0

Yeas: 3 - Manning Jr, Patterson, Thomsen

Nays: 1 - Linthicum

Fiscal: Has minimal fiscal impact

Revenue: No revenue impact

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Meeting Dates: 2/11, 2/18

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Expands free use of state parks, individual campsites, and day use areas to include parents, siblings, spouses and dependents of members of the U.S. Armed Forces killed in action.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Veterans with service-related disability
- Benefit programs
- Number of people enrolled in current program

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

The Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD) was created as a part of the Highway Department in 1921. In 2016, Oregon's state parks contributed \$1.1 billion to the state's economy and supported around 16,000 full- and part-time jobs. Currently, active duty military on leave on certain holidays, and disabled veterans, are allowed to use any state park, individual campsite, and any day use area that otherwise charges a fee, free of charge.

Senate Bill 534 expands the free use of state parks, individual campsites, and day use areas currently allowed for disabled veterans, to include parents, siblings, spouses and dependents of service members of the U.S. Armed Forces killed in action.