

SB 320 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Veterans and Emergency Preparedness

Action Date: 04/13/21

Action: Do pass with amendments and requesting referral to Ways and Means. (Printed A-Engrossed.)

Vote: 3-1-0-0

Yeas: 3 - Manning Jr, Patterson, Thomsen

Nays: 1 - Linthicum

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: No revenue impact

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Meeting Dates: 2/9, 4/13

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Permits State Fish and Wildlife Commission (SFWC) to authorize nonprofits serving veterans, or members of the Armed Forces whose duty station is a warrior transition unit, through a program of angling or shellfish harvest established on or before January 1, 2021, to conduct excursions where said members may angle or take shellfish at no cost using licenses, permits, or tags with certain requirements. Prohibits agent of SFWC that issues said licenses from retaining any portion of an agent fee for issuance of daily licenses. Authorizes SFWC to suspend or revoke authorization if the nonprofit organization does not meet qualifications or violates SFWC rule. Permits SFWC to adopt rules as necessary to implement program requirements. Operative January 1, 2022 and sunsets January 2, 2027 with certain provisions. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Relationship to Senate Bill 1543 A (2020)
- Community of support for veterans
- Recreational opportunities for healing and treatment of veterans

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

Replaces the measure.

BACKGROUND:

Oregon offers a variety of recreational opportunities for veterans and servicemembers, including: free hunting and angling licenses for eligible disabled veterans; reduced cost hunting and fishing for nonresident uniformed servicemembers; special four-year access passes for eligible disabled veterans that allow free camping and day-use at more than 25 state park sites; reimbursement for active duty servicemembers using state parks while on leave; and free tags for hunting and fishing through nonprofit entities that organize group excursions for eligible disabled veterans and Purple Heart recipients.

Senate Bill 320 A enables nonprofits serving veterans or members of the Armed Forces whose duty station is a warrior transition unit to conduct excursions for members using free angling or shellfish harvest licenses issued by agents of the State Fish and Wildlife Commission (SFWC) with certain requirements.