

SB 320 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY
House Committee On Veterans and Emergency Management

Carrier: Rep. Meek

Action Date: 05/27/21
Action: Do Pass the A-Eng bill.
Vote: 6-0-0-0
Yeas: 6 - Evans, Grayber, Lewis, Meek, Wallan, Wright
Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued
Revenue: No revenue impact
Prepared By: Cassie Passon, Counsel
Meeting Dates: 5/18, 5/27

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Permits State Fish and Wildlife Commission (SFWC) to authorize nonprofits serving veterans or members of Armed Forces whose duty station is a warrior transition unit to conduct excursions through an angling or shellfish harvesting program established on or before January 1, 2021, where said veterans or servicemembers may angle or take shellfish at no cost with certain requirements. Prohibits agent of SFWC that issues 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:

- Creating a new type of group license
- Streamlining resources to expand services of effected nonprofits
- Absence of opposition
- History of legislative concept
- Modeling after Washington's program
- Collaboration between Association of Northwest Steelheaders and Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW)
- "Try it, before you buy it" program for end users
- Use of ODFW's electronic licensing system
- Reason for sunset clause

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

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 group excursions using free angling or shellfish harvest licenses issued by agents of the State Fish and Wildlife Commission (SFWC) with certain requirements.