

SB 448 -2 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Environment and Natural Resources

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Sub-Referral To: Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Meeting Dates: 2/21, 4/8

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Directs Office of Outdoor Recreation to study and make recommendations on the development of Oregon Outdoors Pass. Requires office to submit report to Legislative Assembly by September 15, 2019. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-2 Replaces measure. Directs Office of Emergency Management (OEM) to establish and administer an outdoor recreation search and rescue card program. States program purpose to allow people who engage in outdoor recreation to voluntarily contribute to the Oregon Search and Rescue Fund (Fund) by purchasing an Oregon outdoor recreation search and rescue card (card). Directs OEM to coordinate with the state Fish and Wildlife Commission (FWC), State Parks and Recreation Department (PRD) and any other state or federal agency or private retailer to make cards available to purchase at locations where other licenses, permits, tags, and permits are sold. Makes card valid for one year. Allows OEM 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; multiyear card for individual to not more than \$50 or \$125 for a family. Specifies agent's fee for annual card may not exceed \$1 or \$4 for multiyear card. Directs money collected for card sales, except agent fee, is deposited into Fund. Specifies that card purchase does not exempt person from liability for reimbursement under ORS 440.270 (reimbursement of public body for search and rescue by benefited persons). Establishes Fund. Directs money in Fund to be used to reimburse county sheriffs for costs incurred in performance of search and rescue activities; to administer and support annual county search and rescue grant program; and to pay the administrative costs of OEM in carrying out specified search and rescue responsibilities and this Act. Requires OEM director to adopt rules, after consultation with FWC, PRD, and other affected state agencies. Requires OEM to submit annual report to interim legislative committees on the administration and effectiveness of the card program. Establishes operative date of card program as January 1, 2020. Authorizes OEM director to take actions necessary prior to operative date in order to start program on operative date. Declares emergency, effective upon passage.

BACKGROUND:

In 2017, the legislature created the Office of Outdoor Recreation in the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD) through the enactment of House Bill 3350. The Office was charged with coordinating outdoor recreation policy, assisting in developing or updating the outdoor recreation management strategies of OPRD, collaborating with the Oregon Tourism Commission and Travel Information Council to create effective forums for communicating recreation-based initiatives and for sharing best practices, and serving as a clearinghouse and information center for outdoor recreation stakeholders.

Senate Bill 448 would direct the Office of Outdoor Recreation to study and make recommendations on the development of the Oregon Outdoor Pass.