

SB 1543 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Veterans

Prepared By: Michael Lantz, Counsel

Meeting Dates: 2/5

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Allows certain facilities and programs to receive a free SportsPac license to conduct organized hunting, angling, and shellfish activities without purchasing additional individual licenses, tags, or other permits. Requires at least one staff person of facility or organization to be present during activities. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Under current Oregon law, a person seeking to hunt, fish, or harvest shellfish must purchase applicable licenses, tags, and permits. Uniformed service members, disabled veterans, youth, and seniors are all eligible for free or reduced licenses. Residents of Oregon also have the option of purchasing a SportsPac license, which includes fishing, shellfish, and hunting licenses as well as certain tags. The SportsPac license costs \$196.50 or \$206.25 with an associated Columbia River Basin Endorsement. Currently, organizations wanting to take groups or individuals hunting, fishing, or shellfish harvesting must purchase the proper licenses, tag, or permit for each individual.

Senate Bill 1543 creates a free group SportPac license that is available to certain nonprofits and other organizations, including Oregon Veterans' Homes, and allows these groups to take individuals they serve hunting, fishing, or shellfish harvesting without purchasing additional licenses, tags, or permits.