



# Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

**Department of Fish and Wildlife**  
Office of the Director  
4034 Fairview Industrial Drive SE  
Salem, OR 97302  
(503) 947-6044  
FAX (503) 947-6042  
odfw.com

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**To: The Honorable Brad Witt, Chair  
House Committee on Natural Resources**



**Senate Bill 1543 A**  
**Shannon Hurn, Deputy Director for Fish and Wildlife Programs**  
**Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife**

The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (department) appreciates the opportunity to discuss Senate bill 1543A with you today. The department has no position on the bill.

Senate bill 1543A would add nonprofit organizations that serve veterans and active military personnel who are part of the warrior transition battalion to the entities under ORS 497.162 that can receive no cost group licenses to angle and take shellfish. Senate bill 1543A removes the 30-person cap on the group license and revises the law to allow each individual to participate no more than three times a year under a group license. Additionally, the group license waives the requirements to have other license, permit, tag or endorsements.

There is likely a minor fiscal impact from Senate bill 1543A as participating nonresident and resident veterans, along with a component of active military personnel would no longer be required to purchase licenses, tags and endorsements. However, there does not currently exist a mechanism for non-profit organizations that serve veterans or returning, injured military personnel to apply for the same opportunity to obtain no cost angling and shellfish licenses as provided for under ORS 497.162 (3) to the Oregon Veteran's Administration.

The department recommends considering amendments to the bill that would allow the agency to develop rules and enforce the new provision in the statute. The original version introduced contained;

The department shall adopt rules for the administration and enforcement of this section.  
The department may suspend or cancel a group license if the license holder ceases to be a qualifying entity or for a violation of rules adopted under this section.

The department suggests adding this language back into the bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

**CONTACT:**  
**Shannon Hurn, Deputy Director, (503) 947-6044**