

SB 1543 B STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Carrier: Rep. Gorsek

House Committee On Natural Resources

Action Date: 02/25/20

Action: Do pass with amendments to the A-Eng bill. (Printed B-Eng.)

Vote: 4-0-0-3

Yeas: 4 - Gorsek, Lively, Reardon, Witt

Abs: 3 - Barreto, Smith DB, Sprenger

Fiscal: Has minimal fiscal impact

Revenue: No revenue impact

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Meeting Dates: 2/20, 2/25

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Allows nonprofit organizations, homes, and hospitals serving veterans or certain active duty military personnel to receive a free group license to angle and harvest shellfish without the need for individual participant permits, tags, or other endorsements. Requires a staff member of the organization to accompany the participants, and limits participants to three such events per year. Authorizes the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission (Commission) to adopt rules for administration and enforcement, and authorizes the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife to suspend or cancel a group license if the license holder ceases to qualify or violates a Commission rule. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Fishing events for veterans
- Harvest reporting system for group license
- Agency rules needed for harvest reporting system and enforcement purposes

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

Authorizes the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission (Commission) to adopt rules for administration and enforcement, and authorizes the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife to suspend or cancel a group license if the license holder ceases to qualify or violates a Commission rule.

BACKGROUND:

A person seeking to fish or harvest shellfish in Oregon must purchase applicable licenses, tags, and permits. Uniformed service members, disabled veterans, youth, and seniors are all eligible for free or reduced-cost licenses. Additionally, hospitals or homes run by the federal Veteran's Administration may apply for up to 30 angling and shellfish harvesting licenses for patients or residents per year. However, nonprofits and other organizations wanting to take groups or individuals fishing or shellfish harvesting must purchase the proper licenses, tag, or permit for each individual.

Senate Bill 1543-B would create a free group fishing and shellfish harvesting license that is available to nonprofit organizations, homes, and hospitals serving veterans and certain active duty personnel.