

HB 2171 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Agriculture and Natural Resources

Action Date: 03/18/21

Action: Do pass with amendments and be referred to Ways and Means by prior reference.
(Printed A-Eng.)

Vote: 7-3-0-0

Yeas: 7 - Hudson, Marsh, McLain, Reardon, Smith DB, Williams, Witt

Nays: 3 - Breese-Iverson, Cate, Post

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: No revenue impact

Prepared By: Stuty Maskey, LPRO Analyst

Meeting Dates: 2/11, 3/18

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Directs Oregon Conservation and Recreation Advisory Committee to consult with the Oregon Office of Outdoor Recreation (OREC) when making recommendations regarding the use of Oregon Conservation and Recreation Fund (OCRF) moneys. Appropriates \$1 million matching funds out of the General Fund to the Emergency Board to allocate to the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) for use as OCRF moneys and directs the Emergency Board to release funds in increments that match the actual deposits made to the OCRF from July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2023 from sources other than the state government. Repeals sunset on OCRF. Directs Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD) to establish statewide recommended standards for design of recreation projects. Establishes Outdoor Recreation Advisory Committee (Committee) to advise OREC and describes the provisions related to member appointments. Directs OREC to maintain centralized website with links to agency websites, information regarding how to purchase outdoor recreation passes, permits, or licenses. Requires OREC, in consultation with the Committee, to study and recommend for legislation necessary information to develop single online storefront for outdoor recreation passes. Requires OREC to submit annual inventory and gap analysis of outdoor recreation infrastructure to the Legislative Assembly. Directs OREC to study and submit report to the Legislative Assembly by September 15, 2022 with recommendations on equity strategies to increase access to outdoor recreation and ensure the reflection of geographic, racial, ethnic, and gender diversity. Directs OREC to collaborate with Oregon Business Development Department to design and propose legislation to implement grant program to support outdoor recreation products organizations and accelerators. Requires OREC to submit proposed legislation to Legislative Assembly by September 15, 2022. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Current data related to inequity issues in the state parks in Oregon
- Accessibility issues for the underserved and under represented population including senior citizens and disabled population
- Impediments for accessing outdoors for different ethnic, racial, gender, geographic minorities
- Congestion and public safety concerns

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

Adds the Associate Director of Outdoor Recreation or the Associate Director's designee as a nonvoting, ex officio member of the Oregon Conservation and Recreation Advisory Committee. Authorizes the funds to be released in increments that match deposits made from July 1, 2019, to June 30, 2023 into the Oregon Recreation and Conservation Fund (OCRF) rather than being limited to be released only after a General Fund appropriation of \$1,000,000. Clarifies statewide standards for the design of recreation projects are recommended standards. Requires Committee to provide recommendations for safe and comfortable outdoor tourism and recreation for

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specified communities. Removes requirement for Office of Outdoor Recreation to study and recommend legislation necessary to ensure all agency advisory committees related to outdoor recreation make appointments with consideration of geographic, racial, ethnic and gender diversity.

BACKGROUND:

The 2017 Oregon Legislative Assembly created the Office of Outdoor Recreation (OREC) within the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department to advocate for outdoors and connect the personal, community, and economic benefits of outdoor recreation for all Oregonians. In 2019, the legislature created the Oregon Conservation and Recreation Fund (OCRF) within the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife to support projects that protect and enhance species, habitats, and associated recreational opportunities.

House Bill 2171 A repeals the sunset on the Oregon Conservation and Recreation Fund (OCRF), appropriates \$1 million matching fund out of the General Fund to the Emergency Board to allocate to the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) for use as OCRF moneys and directs the Emergency Board to release funds in increments that match the actual deposits made to the OCRF from July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2023 from sources other than the state government. The Act directs Oregon Parks and Recreation Department to establish statewide recommended standards for design of recreation projects, establishes the Outdoor Recreation Advisory Committee (Committee) to advise OREC and requires OREC, in consultation with the Committee, to study and recommend for legislation necessary information to develop single online storefront for outdoor recreation passes.