

FISCAL IMPACT OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION**Measure: SB 320**81st Oregon Legislative Assembly – 2021 Regular Session
Legislative Fiscal Office*Only Impacts on Original or Engrossed
Versions are Considered Official*Prepared by: Kim To
Reviewed by: John Terpening, Zane Potter
Date: March 1, 2021**Measure Description:**

Authorizes issuance of group license for angling or shellfish to nonprofit organization serving veterans or certain armed forces members.

Government Unit(s) Affected:

Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW), Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs (ODVA)

Summary of Fiscal Impact:

Costs related to the measure may require budgetary action - See analysis.

Summary of Expenditure Impact - Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW):

	2021-23 Biennium	2023-25 Biennium
Other Funds		
Personal Services	36,800	32,000
Services and Supplies	45,000	
Total Other Funds	\$81,800	\$32,000

Summary of Revenue Impact - Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) :

Passage of this bill could potentially result in a loss of sport license fee revenues and federal funding from the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS).

Analysis:

SB 320 would allow more veterans to participate in an existing program that allows no-fee access to angling and shellfishing in the state of Oregon. The measure creates a new group license and adds nonprofit organizations that serve veterans and warrior transition units to the entities who qualify for this new license type. The measure adds all veterans, as well as active military personnel who are part of a warrior transition unit, to the individuals who can qualify to participate under the group license. The measure stipulates that individuals may not participate in more than three outings under the group license per year. The measure waives the requirement for any other licenses, permits, tags, or endorsements for participants under the group license on the days of group outings.

Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW)

ODFW estimates the cost of creating a new license type and expanding access to be \$81,800 Other Funds. This amount reflects staffing for rulemaking and administering this new group license, including verifying of organizations applying for the license, overseeing the license with eligible organizations, verifying that individual participants qualify, and addressing expanded enforcement inquiries from the Oregon State Police. Also included in this amount is the estimated \$45,000 cost of modifying ODFW's Electronic Licensing System (ELS) to support administration of this new group license. In addition to administrative changes, passage of this bill would require ELS modifications to accommodate harvest recording under this new group license. Federal oversight on sensitive fisheries requires extensive monitoring and reporting. ODFW collects valuable harvest information from anglers on halibut, sturgeon, salmon and steelhead that assists with managing fisheries and maintaining acceptable

harvest levels. Individual license holders report this information through their Combined Angling Tag, and the Electronic Licensing System is designed to streamline this process by collecting real time harvest information. Because the measure does not require any additional licenses, permits, tags, or endorsements beyond the free group license issued to the qualifying organization, reporting harvest information from group outings would be the responsibility of one person for the entire group. Harvest data provided for the group would need to be at the same level of detail currently collected, including total catch with number of individuals that caught, in order to meet federal monitoring and reporting requirements.

Furthermore, passage of this bill is likely to reduce agency revenues from two sources: (1) direct revenue from sport license fees; and (2) federal funding from the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). ODFW receives funding from USFWS based on the number of unique paid license holders. Each participation under a group license with no requirement for an individual license or additional permits, tags, or endorsements cannot be counted to obtain this federal funding. ODFW must make a \$2 profit on a license identifiable to a unique individual in order to receive funding through the Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program. At this time, this loss of revenue is indeterminate because it's difficult to predict how many customers would take advantage of the opportunity afforded by this measure. As a point of reference, note that the current fee for an angling license is \$44 and the fee for a shellfish license is \$10, and for each free participation under this measure, ODFW would lose the potential for approximately \$14 in USFWS federal funding.

This measure warrants a subsequent referral to the Joint Committee on Ways and Means for consideration of its budgetary impact on the Department of Fish and Wildlife.