

HB 2566 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Environment and Natural Resources

Prepared By: Beth Patrino, LPRO Analyst

Meeting Dates: 4/26, 5/3

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Extends age range for youth participating in hunter mentoring program by raising oldest eligible age from 14 to 16 years of age.

House Vote: Passed. Ayes, 56; Excused, 3--Boone, Clem, McKeown; Excused for Business of the House, 1--Speaker Kotek.

Fiscal impact issued, no revenue impact

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Number of youth who have participated in hunter mentoring program
- Information showing hunters who have completed a mentoring program are safer hunters
- Interest in encouraging hunting participation by youth

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

The Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission requires youth under 18 years old to successfully complete an approved course on the safe handling of hunting weapons to be authorized to hunt wildlife. An alternative to completing the course is available for youth aged nine to 14 years, requiring them to take part in a youth hunter mentoring program and supervised hunt.

House Bill 2566A would expand the age range for youth participating in the hunter mentoring program through the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Department.