

**HB 2652 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**

**Carrier:** Rep. Gorsek

**House Committee On Natural Resources**

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**Action Date:** 02/14/19

**Action:** Do pass with amendments. (Printed A-Eng.)

**Vote:** 7-0-0-0

**Yeas:** 7 - Barreto, Gorsek, McKeown, Reardon, Smith DB, Sprenger, Witt

**Fiscal:** Has minimal fiscal impact

**Revenue:** No revenue impact

**Prepared By:** Kailey Kornhauser, LPRO Analyst

**Meeting Dates:** 2/5, 2/14

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

Requires outfitters and guides operating on class III or higher waters to rent, sell, or otherwise make available helmets to all passengers. Refers to bill as the Sharon Birge Memorial Whitewater Helmet Act.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Number of helmets outfitter or guide is required to store
- Boat helmet sizes
- Passenger choice to wear helmet
- Helmet availability prior to boarding boat
- Whitewater rating

**EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:**

Refers to bill as the Sharon Birge Memorial Whitewater Helmet Act. Limits helmet requirement to outfitters and guides operating on class III or higher waters.

**BACKGROUND:**

Oregon law requires boat outfitters and guides to carry equipment such as first-aid, life jackets, light and smoke flares, and running lights. "Outfitters and guides," as defined in ORS 704.010, include any person compensated for providing or offering outfitting and guiding services in this state or any person who holds federal special use permits for commercial outfitting and guiding.

House Bill 2652 A would require outfitters and guides operating on class III or higher waters to rent, sell, or otherwise make available helmets to all passengers.