

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: No fiscal impact

Action:	Do Pass and Be Placed on the Consent Calendar
Vote:	4 - 0 - 1
Yeas:	Cowan, Schaufler, Scott, Barker
Nays:	0
Exc.:	Boquist
Prepared By:	Jim Keller, Administrator
Meeting Dates:	1/23, 1/30

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Expands the rulemaking authority of the Department of Veterans' Affairs. Expands the role of the Advisory Committee to the Director of Veterans' Affairs. Adds spouses and survivors of deceased veterans to persons the Director of Veterans' Affairs may assist.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Clarifies the inclusion of spouses and survivors of deceased veterans
- Updates the rule making authority of the Department of Veterans' Affairs

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

BACKGROUND: The Department of Veterans' Affairs Advisory Committee is appointed by the Governor for no more than two, four year terms. The committee meets every three months and in August of each year, the committee submits a report to the Governor on all matters pertinent to the administration of the Department of Veterans' Affairs. In ORS 406.030 under "administration of veteran's laws," it states that the Advisory Committee shall promulgate such rules and adopt such forms as the department considers necessary and expedient. The current statute also limits the Advisory Committee and the department to serving *war veterans* and their dependents.

House Bill 2161 amends the role of the Advisory Committee to advise the Department of Veterans' Affairs in the adoption of rules and removes the language that states "shall promulgate such rules and adopt such forms as the department considers necessary and expedient." The bill also expands the definition of veterans by removing the restriction of war veterans and adds the veteran's spouses and survivors.