

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Fiscal statement issued

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<b>Action:</b>	Do Pass and Rescind the Subsequent Referral to the Committee on Ways and Means
<b>Vote:</b>	4 - 0 - 1
<b>Yeas:</b>	Gordly, Kruse, Courtney, Monnes Anderson
<b>Nays:</b>	0
<b>Exc.:</b>	Carter
<b>Prepared By:</b>	Shannon Strumpfer, Administrator
<b>Meeting Dates:</b>	5/16, 5/23

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:** Directs the Director of the Department of Veterans' Affairs to assist veterans of military service in obtaining screening tests and treatment for exposure to depleted uranium. Creates a Task Force on Exposure to Depleted Uranium. Declares an emergency, effective on passage.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Department of Veteran' Affairs ability to absorb costs
- Director of Department of Veterans' Affairs support
- Services for which veterans currently wait

**EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:** No amendment.

**BACKGROUND:** Depleted uranium (DU) is natural uranium left over after most of the U-235 isotope has been removed, including uranium used as fuel in nuclear power plants. DU possesses about 60 percent of the radioactivity of natural uranium and is a radiation hazard primarily if internalized, such as in shrapnel, contaminated wounds, and inhalation. Testing of DU for possible military use began in the early 1960's and it was first used by the United States military in projectiles and armor for tanks during the Gulf War, which began in the 1990's. It has also been used in other conflicts such as Operation Iraqi Freedom and Bosnia.

House Bill 2832 A requires the Director of the Department of Veterans' Affairs to establish an outreach program to inform veterans of military service of the availability of assistance for screening tests and federal treatment services for exposure to depleted uranium. The measure also creates a Task Force on Exposure to Depleted Uranium, which would submit a report to the interim legislative committee assigned to deal with veterans' affairs no later than Oct 1, 2008. The measure sunsets in January 2009.