

**74th OREGON LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY - 2007 Regular Session**  
**STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**  
**House Committee on Elections, Ethics and Rules**

**MEASURE: HJM 9-A**  
**CARRIER: Rep. Shields**  
**Rep. Holvey**

**REVENUE: No revenue impact**

**FISCAL: No fiscal impact**

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<b>Action:</b>	Be Adopted as Amended and Be Printed Engrossed
<b>Vote:</b>	6 - 1 - 0
<b>Yeas:</b>	Berger, Buckley, Esquivel, Hunt, Roblan, Rosenbaum
<b>Nays:</b>	Thatcher
<b>Exc.:</b>	-
<b>Prepared By:</b>	Jim Stenbridge, Administrator
<b>Meeting Dates:</b>	2/26, 3/5

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:** Urges President to begin withdrawing United States forces from Iraq as soon as possible, but not later than December 2007. Urges Congress to pass legislation prohibiting the President from increasing the number of troops in Iraq. Urges the President to obtain explicit approval from Congress before sending more American troops to Iraq.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Constitutional provisions involving federal vs. state powers
- Critical decisions made in conduct of war in Iraq
- Experience of Oregon service members and military families
- Costs and benefits of war in Iraq for Oregonians
- Ways of showing support for U.S. troops in, and returning from, Iraq
- Appropriateness of Oregon legislators making recommendations on national military matters
- Suffering among the people of Iraq and what would happen if the U.S. withdraws

**EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:** Updates statistics on war costs and casualties, substitutes December 31, 2007 (instead of August 1, 2007) as withdrawal date.

**BACKGROUND:** According to the Los Angeles Times, there were about 140,000 U.S. troops in Iraq in December 2006.

The Iraq Study Group presented its findings to President Bush and leaders on Capitol Hill in December 2006. The bipartisan panel spent more than nine months analyzing possible strategies to help stabilize Iraq. The report called the situation there "grave and deteriorating" and urged intense diplomatic efforts. The Iraq Study Group was a bipartisan group of prominent Americans, led by co-chairs James A. Baker, III, the nation's 61st Secretary of State, and Lee H. Hamilton, former congressman and director of the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars. The other members of the study group were Lawrence S. Eagleburger, Vernon E. Jordan, Jr., Edwin Meese III, Sandra Day O'Connor, Leon E. Panetta, William J. Perry, Charles S. Robb, and Alan K. Simpson.

In a news release issued January 10, 2007, the President announced an increase in Iraqi security force capacity from 10 to 13 Army divisions, 36 to 41 Army brigades, and 112 to 132 Army battalions (estimated to be about 20,000 additional troops), stating "Our enemies throughout the Middle East are trying to defeat us in Iraq. If we step back now, the problems in Iraq will become more lethal, and make our troops fight an uglier battle than we are seeing today."

3/13/2007 12:33:00 PM

***This summary has not been adopted or officially endorsed by action of the committee.***

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