

House Bill 2832

Sponsored by Representatives BUCKLEY, SHIELDS; Representatives BARKER, BOQUIST, SCHAUFLER, SCOTT

SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced**.

Directs Director of Veterans' Affairs to assist veterans of military service in obtaining screening tests and treatment services for exposure to depleted uranium.

Creates Task Force on Exposure to Depleted Uranium.

Declares emergency, effective on passage.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1
2 Relating to exposure to depleted uranium; and declaring an emergency.

3 **Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:**

4 **SECTION 1. (1) As used in this section:**

5 (a) **"Depleted uranium" means the uranium ore that remains after the more highly ra-**
6 **dioactive isotopes are removed from uranium when making uranium into nuclear weapons**
7 **or nuclear fuel.**

8 (b) **"Military service" means service in:**

9 (A) **Operation Enduring Freedom;**

10 (B) **Operation Iraqi Freedom;**

11 (C) **Operation Desert Shield; or**

12 (D) **Operation Desert Storm.**

13 (c) **"Veteran" means an individual who:**

14 (A) **Is a veteran as defined in ORS 408.225;**

15 (B) **Performed military service as a member of the Oregon National Guard and who has**
16 **been demobilized; or**

17 (C) **Is an Oregon resident who performed military service as a member of the reserves**
18 **of the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps or Coast Guard of the United States and who**
19 **has been demobilized.**

20 (2) **The Director of Veterans' Affairs shall assist a veteran of military service in obtain-**
21 **ing screening tests and federal treatment services for exposure to depleted uranium.**

22 (3) **A veteran of military service is eligible for assistance under subsection (2) of this**
23 **section if the veteran:**

24 (a) **Is referred by a military physician;**

25 (b) **Has been assigned by the veteran's branch of service a particular risk level for ex-**
26 **posure to depleted uranium; or**

27 (c) **Was exposed to or has reason to believe the veteran was exposed to depleted uranium.**

28 (4) **The director shall establish an outreach program to inform veterans of military ser-**
29 **vice of the availability of the assistance described in subsection (2) of this section.**

30 **SECTION 2. (1) There is created the Task Force on Exposure to Depleted Uranium con-**

NOTE: Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter [*italic and bracketed*] is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 sisting of 13 members. The purpose of the task force is to study the effects on veterans of
 2 military service of exposure to depleted uranium resulting from military service.

3 (2) The task force consists of:

4 (a) The Adjutant General;

5 (b) The Director of Veterans' Affairs;

6 (c) One person appointed by the Director of Human Services who is knowledgeable about
 7 the effects of exposure to depleted uranium;

8 (d) Five persons appointed by the President of the Senate as follows:

9 (A) Three persons from among members of the Senate;

10 (B) One person who is a veteran with knowledge of or experience with exposure to de-
 11 pleted uranium; and

12 (C) One person who is a scientist or a physician with knowledge of the detection and
 13 health effects of exposure to depleted uranium; and

14 (e) Five persons appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives as follows:

15 (A) Three persons from among members of the House of Representatives;

16 (B) One person who is a veteran with knowledge of or experience with exposure to de-
 17 pleted uranium; and

18 (C) One person who is a scientist or a physician with knowledge of the detection and
 19 health effects of exposure to depleted uranium.

20 (3) The task force shall:

21 (a) Study the scope and adequacy of training received by veterans of military service
 22 concerning exposure to depleted uranium;

23 (b) Prepare a report for submission to an interim committee of the Legislative Assembly
 24 concerning veterans of military service who were exposed to depleted uranium;

25 (c) Assess the feasibility and cost of adding predeployment training concerning potential
 26 exposure and the effects of exposure to depleted uranium; and

27 (d) Make any other studies relating to depleted uranium the task force considers appro-
 28 priate.

29 (4) A majority of the members of the task force constitutes a quorum for the transaction
 30 of business.

31 (5) Official action by the task force requires the approval of a majority of the members
 32 of the task force.

33 (6) The task force shall elect one of its members to serve as chairperson.

34 (7) If there is a vacancy for any cause, the appointing authority shall make an appoint-
 35 ment to become immediately effective.

36 (8) The task force shall meet at times and places specified by the call of the chairperson
 37 or of a majority of the members of the task force.

38 (9) The task force may adopt rules necessary for the operation of the task force.

39 (10) The task force shall submit a report, and may include recommendations for legis-
 40 lation, to an interim committee with oversight on veterans' affairs no later than October 1,
 41 2008.

42 (11) The Department of Veterans' Affairs shall provide staff support to the task force.

43 (12) Members of the task force who are not members of the Legislative Assembly are not
 44 entitled to compensation, but may be reimbursed for actual and necessary travel and other
 45 expenses incurred by them in the performance of their official duties in the manner and

1 amounts provided for in ORS 292.495. Claims for expenses incurred in performing functions
2 of the task force shall be paid out of funds appropriated to the Department of Veterans'
3 Affairs for that purpose.

4 (13) All agencies of state government, as defined in ORS 174.111, are directed to assist
5 the task force in the performance of its duties and, to the extent permitted by laws relating
6 to confidentiality, to furnish such information and advice as the members of the task force
7 consider necessary to perform their duties.

8 (14) As used in this section, "depleted uranium," "military service" and "veteran" have
9 the meanings given those terms in section 1 of this 2007 Act.

10 SECTION 3. Section 1 of this 2007 Act becomes operative on January 1, 2008.

11 SECTION 4. Section 2 of this 2007 Act is repealed on the date of the convening of the next
12 regular biennial legislative session.

13 SECTION 5. This 2007 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public
14 peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2007 Act takes effect
15 on its passage.