

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: No fiscal impact

Action:	Do Pass and Be Placed on the Consent Calendar
Vote:	8 - 0 - 0
Yeas:	Boone, Esquivel, Freeman, Komp, Matthews, Riley, Weidner, Cowan
Nays:	0
Exc.:	0
Prepared By:	David Molina, Administrator
Meeting Dates:	2/5, 2/19

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Eliminates two minor requirements for appointment to the Governor's Veterans Affairs Advisory Committee to the Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Mandating that a veteran from a particular era be appointed limits flexibility
- Continuing population decline in World War II and Korean War veterans, more representation from Cold War
- War veterans statute excludes veterans who served during peacetime and can serve on the advisory committee
- Recent population growth and demand from the Iraq and Afghanistan veterans cohort

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

BACKGROUND: House Bill 2176 amends current law to eliminate two minor requirements for appointment to the Governor's Veterans Affairs Advisory Committee to the Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs, including war term and war era requirements.

Under ORS 406.210 the Governor "will appoint nine members, all of whom must be war veterans. These appointments must represent each war era, with at least one member being a member from the Korean conflict and at least three members shall be of the period following the Korean conflict." House Bill 2176 removes the word "war" from the term "war veteran" and defines veteran as used in ORS 408.225. This technical change broadens and increases the pool of veterans eligible to serve on the Advisory Committee. While the expertise and counsel from war veterans is often sought from the Department, the measure would bring in the experience and skills from Cold War era veterans in addition to current and future military campaigns.

Secondly, the measure removes the mandatory requirement that the Committee must have members from each war era. Consequently this requirement presents challenges to the Department where the pool of World War II and Korean War veterans are not always physically able to serve, in particular as this veteran cohort population continues to age.