

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Minimal fiscal impact, no statement issued

Action: Do Pass as Amended and Be Printed Engrossed

Vote: 3 - 0 - 2

Yeas: Kruse, Morrisette, Monnes Anderson

Nays: 0

Exc.: Bates, Morse

Prepared By: Robert Shook, Administrator

Meeting Dates: 5/14, 5/21

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Allows Director of Department of Veterans' Affairs to dispose of non-monetary gifts with no value and that are not useful to the Department to needy veterans, their survivors or dependents, and those serving veterans directly. Declares emergency, effective January 1, 2010.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Definition of non-monetary gifts
- Impact on veterans and their families

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: Clarifies definition of veteran as stated in Senate Bill 96 (ORS 406-050), and declares an effective date of January 1, 2010.

BACKGROUND: House Bill 2177 A is intended to provide the Department of Veterans' Affairs more flexibility in providing non-monetary gifts, such as wheelchairs, clothing, toiletries, and other items, directly to needy veterans and those serving veterans directly. Under current statute, non-monetary gifts received by the Department must be converted to cash if the gift cannot be used directly by the Department. Non-monetary gifts with no cash value that are not useful to the Department can be given to people, corporations or organizations that serve veterans, often with the knowledge of the individual veteran that needs it. However, under current statute, the Department cannot give these gifts directly to needy veterans, their survivors or dependents.

House Bill 2177 A allows the Department of Veterans' Affairs to dispose of non-monetary assets at the discretion of the Director.