

**REVENUE:** No revenue impact

**FISCAL:** Minimal fiscal impact, no statement issued

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<b>Action:</b>	Do Pass and Be Placed on the Consent Calendar
<b>Vote:</b>	8 - 0 - 0
<b>Yeas:</b>	Boone, Esquivel, Freeman, Komp, Matthews, Riley, Weidner, Cowan
<b>Nays:</b>	0
<b>Exc.:</b>	0
<b>Prepared By:</b>	David Molina, Administrator
<b>Meeting Dates:</b>	2/17

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**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 on passage.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Streamlines public and private donations to individual veterans
- Widespread support among Oregon disabled veterans groups
- Challenges presented to Director by the current statute

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

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