

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Fiscal statement issued

Action: Do Pass
Vote: 4 - 0 - 1
Yeas: Kruse, Morrisette, Morse, Monnes Anderson
Nays: 0
Exc.: Bates
Prepared By: Robert Shook, Administrator
Meeting Dates: 5/14

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Defines the term “veteran” for purposes of section 3, Article XI-A of Oregon Constitution. Specifies that measure takes effect only if amendment to Oregon Constitution by House Joint Resolution 7 (2009) changing eligibility requirements for loan from Oregon War Veterans’ Fund, is approved by people at next general election. Takes effect on January 1, 2011, pending voter approval of House Joint Resolution 7.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Clarification of House Joint Resolution 7 – constitutional amendment to eliminate the 30-year restriction for veterans home loan program
- Defining veteran for home loan eligibility to Senate Bill 96
- Timeline and process for approval of House Joint Resolution 7

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

BACKGROUND: House Bill 3470 defines veteran as used in section 3, Article XI-A of the Oregon Constitution. It defines a veteran as a person who meets one of the following qualifications:

- Served on active duty with the U.S. Armed Forces for more than 90 consecutive days before January 31, 1955 and was discharged or released from active duty under honorable conditions
- Served on active duty for more than 178 consecutive days after January 31, 1955 and was discharged or released from active duty under honorable conditions
- Served on active duty for 178 days or less and discharged from active duty under honorable conditions and has a rating from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)
- Served on active duty for at least one day in a combat zone and was discharged from active duty under honorable conditions
- Received a combat, expeditionary or campaign ribbon or medal for service and was discharged under honorable conditions
- Is receiving a nonservice-connected pension from the VA

Proponents of the measure assert that an additional 264,000 veterans could potentially become eligible for the Oregon Veterans Home Loan program. The Oregon Department of Veterans’ Affairs anticipates making an additional \$7.5 million in loans to newly eligible veterans in the 2009-2011 biennium and \$30 million new loans for the 2011-2013 biennium.

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