

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: No fiscal impact

Action: Be Adopted
Vote: 5 - 0 - 0
Yeas: Bates, Kruse, Morrisette, Morse, Monnes Anderson
Nays: 0
Exc.: 0
Prepared By: Robert Shook, Administrator
Meeting Dates: 3/12, 3/17

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Urges Congress to pass legislation and approve funds for transition of National Guard and Reservists to civilian life following active service, and requiring Secretary of Defense to develop, coordinate, and fund transition programs.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Returning veterans from World War II, Korean, and Vietnam wars
- Current redeployment system
- Role of the Oregon Military Department's Reintegration Team

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No Amendment.

BACKGROUND: The Governor's Task Force on Veterans' Services determined that the current redeployment system for citizen soldiers returning to their communities provides too short of a decompression period for veterans who have been exposed to combat operations in Iraq and Afghanistan. As a result, these returning soldiers may be suffering from physical or emotional disabilities such as traumatic brain injury and/or post-traumatic stress disorder.

Current deployment training is an orderly four to six month mobilization schedule designed to prepare National Guard members and Reservists for the rigors and complexities of combat operations; however, redeployment back to their Oregon communities is less than one week of training.

HJM 4 recognizes that an appropriate reintegration program of a 90 to 120 day transition "soft landing" for National Guard/Reserve citizen soldiers provides a system for the soldier and their families to gradually readjust to civilian life, ensuring accessible medical care, time for combat decompression, and reunification with family members.