

**75TH OREGON LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY
HOUSE REVENUE COMMITTEE**

**MEASURE: HJR 7 A
CARRIER:**

**REVENUE: No - Revenue Impact
FISCAL: Yes - Fiscal Impact**

Action: Be Adopted and be referred to Rules by Prior Reference
Vote: 8-0-2
Yeas: Bailey, Bentz, Berger, Bruun, Kahl, Riley, Sprenger, Barnhart
Nays: 0
Exc.: Gelser, Read
Prepared By: **Mazen Malik**, Economist
Meeting Dates: 04/10, 4/17

WHAT THE BILL DOES: Proposes amendment to the Oregon Constitution to remove the term “war” as it pertains to the Oregon War Veterans’ Fund in order to broaden the eligibility pool of veterans. Removes the ineligibility if out of service more than 30 years provision to ensure qualified veterans are eligible. Removes the state residency requirement for the veteran in the case of not remarried spouses, thereby increasing the number of spouses eligible. Includes school or training, only as part of active duty training.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Loan Origination process
- Program assets, liability and defaults.
- ORVET administration, admin costs and financial condition.
- Previous problems (the 70’s and 80’s) and if they are different today.
- Statistics and reports on the program and fund.

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS: No Amendment

BACKGROUND:

The Oregon Constitution denies veterans, who have been out of service for more than 30 years, eligibility for the ORVET home loan program. One of the Governor’s Task Force on Veterans’ Services Final Report (December 2008) recommendations is to ensure the ORVET home loan program be aligned with the federal Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) lifetime benefit for home loans. House Joint Resolution 7 is a proposed amendment to the Oregon Constitution to change eligibility requirements for the ORVET home loan program. The five major modifications include:

- Removing the term “war” in the Oregon Constitution to broaden eligible qualified applicants
- Use of term “veteran” as defined by ORS 488.225 to ensure more post-9/11 veterans are eligible
- Extension to veterans who served a period of active duty under honorable conditions
- Allowance for the spouse of a qualified veteran who is either missing in action or a prisoner of war but who never resided in the state to qualify if he/she is the sole survivor to qualify
- Excludes active duty schooling, unless military schooling was in relation to an active enlistment, regular tour of duty, or normal military training as a National Guard/Reserve citizen-soldier.

House Joint Resolution 7 also requires passage of companion bill, HB 3470, to become effective.

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