

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Fiscal statement issued

Action:	Be Adopted
Vote:	8 - 0 - 0
Yeas:	Berger, Edwards C., Garrard, Gelser, Jenson, Nolan, Read, Roblan
Nays:	0
Exc.:	0
Prepared By:	Jerry Watson, Administrator
Meeting Dates:	5/18

WHAT THE MEASURE 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:

- Restrictions in existing ORVET home loan program
- Recommendations of Governor’s Task force on Veteran’s Services Final Report (December 2008)
- Parallel efforts to make changes in federal law to establish lifetime veteran loan eligibility

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: 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.