

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Minimal fiscal impact, no 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: 2/17

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Creates Task Force on Veterans Transportation, and directs task force to study methods to create transportation for veterans to access health care.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Access to medical care in rural areas
- Cost to Department of Veterans Affairs for coordinating work of task force
- Medical care for veterans in non-veterans healthcare facilities

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No Amendment.

BACKGROUND: SB 98 establishes a task force, with a sunset provision, that will create a statewide transportation plan to assist veterans in accessing health care facilities. The task force will submit a report, and may include recommendations for legislation, to an interim committee of the Legislative Assembly related to veterans, no later than October 1, 2011. The Department of Veterans' Affairs will provide staff support to the task force, and task members will serve as volunteers, and not be entitled to compensation or reimbursement for expenses.

Access to medical care continues to be one of the most important issues facing veterans, especially in rural areas of Oregon. The major veteran's healthcare facility is located in Portland, with smaller clinics located in regions throughout Oregon. Transportation to these facilities is a major obstacle in accessing medical care. The Task Force will create a transportation system and plan that will focus on access and transportation to medical care in Oregon.