

**75th OREGON LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY - 2009 Regular Session**  
**STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**  
**Senate Committee on Business and Transportation**

**MEASURE: SB 479 A**  
**CARRIER: Sen. Metsger**

**REVENUE: No revenue impact**

**FISCAL: Minimal fiscal impact, no statement issued**

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**Action:** Do Pass as Amended and Be Printed Engrossed

**Vote:** 5 - 0 - 0

**Yeas:** George, Schrader, Starr, Verger, Metsger

**Nays:** -

**Exc.:** -

**Prepared By:** Jim Stembridge, Administrator

**Meeting Dates:** 3/9, 3/18

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:** Authorizes contracting agencies subject to the Public Contracting Code to give preference in awarding public contracts to disabled veterans. Prohibits discrimination against subcontractors owned by disabled veterans or employing disabled veterans. Declares an emergency, effective upon passage.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Contract bidding and disabled veterans
- Preferences at federal level for veteran-owned businesses
- Current Oregon contracting preferences
- Effective date of legislation and addition of emergency clause
- Rulemaking that would be needed

**EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:** Adds emergency clause, effective upon passage.

**BACKGROUND:** Disabled job seekers continue to face barriers in the form of employer discomfort and misconceptions about the cost of disability accommodations. According to a January 2007 Small Business Administration study, veterans with service-connected disabilities are self-employed at lower rates than veterans without such disabilities. Current contracting statutes provide preferential treatment to socially-disadvantaged groups and individuals, but not to service-disabled veterans.

The federal Public Law 109-461 (2006) contains provisions relating to government contracting by small businesses owned and controlled by veterans as well as by veterans with service-connected disabilities, including a disabled veteran outreach program.

3/25/2009 3:42:00 PM

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

Committee Services Form – 2009 Regular Session