

REVENUE: No revenue impact  
FISCAL: Fiscal statement issued

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<b>Action:</b>	Do Pass as Amended and Be Printed Engrossed
<b>Vote:</b>	5 - 0 - 0
<b>Yeas:</b>	Bonamici, Boquist, Dingfelder, Whitsett, Prozanski
<b>Nays:</b>	0
<b>Exc.:</b>	0
<b>Prepared By:</b>	Bill Taylor, Counsel
<b>Meeting Dates:</b>	4/13, 4/23, 4/28

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:** Exempts from disclosure public records pertaining to an individual's discharge from military service except for the veterans' discharge records maintained by a county clerk. Allows inspection of discharge papers on file with the county clerk under limited circumstances. Requires the person requesting inspection to do so in writing. Request must set forth the requestor's name, address and telephone number and contain the last four digits of the veteran's Social Security number. Allows only the following to inspect the discharge record: the veteran; the veteran's spouse; the legal guardian or personal representative of the military veteran; the county veterans' service officer; a representative of the Department of Veterans' Affairs; or a licensed funeral establishment seeking to ascertain if a decedent was a veteran for the purposes of obtaining veteran's burial benefits.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Convenience for veterans
- Right of privacy

**EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:** Exempts public records relating to veteran's discharge status from disclosure to the public except those records relating to discharge maintained by a county clerk. Limits who has access to the county clerk's records.

**BACKGROUND:** The records in the possession of a state agency or department, state official or of a local government entity or official pertaining to government business are presumed to be subject to public inspection unless otherwise exempted from disclosure. Certain records are exempt from disclosure unless the public interest requires otherwise, ORS 192.501. Other records just are exempt from disclosure, ORS 192.502. ORS 408.420 requires each county clerk to maintain a place where veterans may file copies of their discharge records from the military.