

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Fiscal statement issued

Action:	Do Pass
Vote:	5 - 0 - 0
Yeas:	Bates, Kruse, Morrisette, Morse, Monnes Anderson
Nays:	0
Exc.:	0
Prepared By:	Robert Shook, Administrator
Meeting Dates:	4/2, 4/14, 4/21

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Creates the Task Force on Veterans' Reintegration. Directs the task force to design veterans' re-entry programs to civilian life after an active tour of duty. Sunsets upon the convening of the 2011 Legislative Session.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Issues facing veterans returning from active duty
- Definition of reintegration
- Role of family members in the reintegration process

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

BACKGROUND: For definitional terms, reintegration refers to the process faced by a returning soldier to civilian life, addressing issues such as healthcare, education, family, and employment. Most of Oregon's reintegration issues concern National Guardsmen and returning service members who have separated from active duty. The first alert of the need for a reintegration effort came from military family members coping with the absence of loved ones and the associated fears of returning to civilian life. The alert became alarms as injured soldiers returned home with both visible and invisible wounds. A few of these soldiers coalesced into a group that requested a formalized effort on the part of the National Guard to address their needs. The team familiarized themselves with all resources, created a website, an toll-free telephone number, and divided the state up into regions to ensure the returning soldiers' needs regarding ease of reintegration were being met.

Senate Bill 700 builds on the work of these soldiers by creating a task force to address the pressing issues facing returning veterans. Members of the task force will represent the Legislative Assembly, departments of Human Services, Employment, Veterans Affairs, Housing and Community Services, the Oregon University System, Community College and Workforce Development, the military, the Association of Oregon counties, the League of Oregon Cities, and regional council of governments. Members of the task for will not be entitled to compensation or reimbursement for expenses, and will serve as volunteers to the task force. The task force shall report its findings and recommendations to the Governor no later than October 1, 2010.

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