

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: No fiscal impact

Action: Be Adopted
Vote: 3 - 0 - 2
Yeas: Morrisette, Morse, Monnes Anderson
Nays: 0
Exc.: Bates, Kruse
Prepared By: Robert Shook, Administrator
Meeting Dates: 2/17, 2/24

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Urges Congress to allow Oregon veterans to obtain state home loans at any time after veteran separates from service.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Federal vs. State of Oregon definition of Lifetime Benefit
- Qualified Veteran Mortgage Bonds clarification
- 25-year restriction on home loan eligibility

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No Amendment.

BACKGROUND: The Congress of the United States recently increased the cap on qualified veteran's mortgage bonds to \$100 million, providing significant benefits to Oregon veterans due to low interest rates and the stability of the institution providing the home loans. Under current federal law veterans lose their eligibility to access the Oregon home loan program 25 years after a veteran separates from the service. The 25-year rule unfairly punishes veterans in Oregon compared to the United States Department of Veterans Affairs home loan program that does not have the 25-year restriction. SJM 1 notes that Oregon's home loan program should be allowed to offer low interest home loans to qualified veterans at any time during the lifetime of a veteran without regard to length of time of separation from service. The Governor's Task Force on Veterans' heard from many veterans that feel this restriction is arbitrary, especially considering the federal Veterans Administration home loan is a lifetime benefit