

2009 Regular Legislative Session
FISCAL ANALYSIS OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION
Prepared by the Oregon Legislative Fiscal Office

MEASURE NUMBER: HB 3104

STATUS: A-Engrossed

SUBJECT: Requires Department of Veterans' Affairs to establish a website that allows members of the public to enter contact information, and to request information about veterans' benefits and services

GOVERNMENT UNIT AFFECTED: Department of Veterans' Affairs, Department of Administrative Services, executive branch state agencies, county government

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DATE: May 14, 2009

2009-2011

2011-2013

EXPENDITURES:

See Analysis

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2009

LOCAL GOVERNMENT MANDATE: This bill does not affect local governments' service levels or shared revenues sufficient to trigger Section 15, Article XI of the Oregon Constitution.

ANALYSIS: This measure requires the Department of Veterans' Affairs (ODVA) to establish a website that allows members of the public to enter contact information, and request information about veterans' benefits and services. ODVA is directed to coordinate outreach to persons who request information through the website. On or before October first of each even-numbered year, ODVA must report to the appropriate interim committees of the Legislative Assembly on the Department's outreach to veterans. Operative on October 1, 2009, the bill requires all executive branch state agencies to include on the agency's website a link to the ODVA veterans' benefits, services and outreach website. Operative January 2, 2010, the bill instructs ODVA to provide state agencies and county governments with printed materials to inform individuals how to contact ODVA to request information about veterans' benefits and services. Agencies and county government are required to make these printed materials available in offices that are accessible to the public. On or before October first of each even-numbered year, state agency directors must report to the appropriate interim committees of the Legislative Assembly on the effectiveness of measures taken to provide customers or clients with information about veterans' benefits and services.

Overall, the fiscal impact of the bill is minimal to ODVA, the Department of Administrative Services (DAS), executive branch state agencies and county government. ODVA currently maintains a webpage that allows members of the public to enter contact information, and request information about veterans' benefits and services. The fiscal impact of linking executive branch state agencies to this ODVA webpage is minimal. The Department of Administrative Services (DAS) reports that in accordance with Executive Order 09-09, DAS has already created for state agencies affected by this bill an icon that links to the ODVA webpage. Adding this link will have a minimal fiscal impact because it requires a one time website update for the 83 state agencies that are currently hosted on the Oregon.gov website. DAS estimates the cost to enable agencies who host their own websites to link to this ODVA webpage to be minimal. ODVA estimates the cost of producing printed materials to inform individuals how to contact ODVA to request information about veterans' benefits and services to be approximately \$34,000 each biennium which ODVA will absorb. ODVA will also use existing program staff and resources to maintain an information warehouse to reply to inquires regarding veterans' benefits and services.