

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

MEASURE NUMBER: SB 618

STATUS: A-Engrossed

SUBJECT: Exempting the discharge records of veterans from disclosure; requirements relating to discharge records for county clerks

GOVERNMENT UNIT AFFECTED: Counties

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DATE: April 29, 2009

	<u>2009-2011</u>	<u>2011-2013</u>
EXPENDITURES: See analysis		

EFFECTIVE DATE: On passage

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: Senate Bill 618 exempts records relating to a veteran's discharge status or other separation from military service from public disclosure. The only exceptions are those records relating to a veteran's discharge that are maintained by a county clerk. County clerks who receive a request to inspect military veteran discharge papers must produce the papers for inspection if certain criteria are met. The measure allows county clerks to adopt policies regarding the use of recorded discharge papers. The measure requires county clerks to maintain a copy of each inspection request for no less than ten years.

There is an indeterminate fiscal impact to counties. County costs will vary based on the following:

- Current process for public access to these records (self-help versus request)
- How records are maintained and/or archived (paper versus microfilm versus electronic)
- Extent to which military discharge records are comingled with other records (redacting consolidated records could be costly)
- Number of discharge records maintained and inspection requests

Crook County estimates it could cost up to \$500 per record to fully redact material exempt from disclosure. Other counties did not provide fiscal impact estimates.