75th OREGON LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY – 2010 Special Session MEASURE: SB 1000

STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs

**REVENUE:** No revenue impact **FISCAL:** Fiscal statement issued

**Action:** Do Pass **Vote:** 3 - 0 - 2

Yeas: Atkinson, Monnes Anderson, Schrader

Nays: 0

**Exc.:** Boquist, Morrisette

**Prepared By:** Bill Taylor, Administrator

**Meeting Dates:** 2/2, 2/4

**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:** Allows a veteran to have included on his or her driver's license a notation that the person is a veteran. Allows the Department of Transportation to waive the customized registration plate fee for persons with the Congressional Medal of Honor registration plates.

CARRIER: Sen. Monnes Anderson

## **ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Very useful tool to help identify veterans and then help veterans obtain federal benefits
- Costs
- State Highway Fund.
- Congressional Medal of Honor plate

## **EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:** No amendment.

**BACKGROUND:** Oregon has 341,000 veterans. With the enactment of HB 3104 last session, the Legislative Assembly directed the Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs to develop and implement a veterans outreach program. ODVA has identified 80,000 Oregon veterans and has assisted them in obtaining benefits that these veterans have earned. SB 1000 would assist ODVA in identifying more Oregon veterans and would then be able to assist the veteran, if the veteran so desired, in obtaining federal veteran's benefits.

Oregon has a special license plate for those who have been awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor. One person has this license plate. He is a veteran of World War II. Last session, the legislature increased the fee for vanity plates from \$50 to \$100. This applied to the Congressional Medal of Honor plate as well.