

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Fiscal statement issued

Action: Do Pass and Be Referred to the Committee on Ways and Means by prior reference

Vote: 5 - 0 - 1

Yeas: Boone, Huffman, Parrish, Esquivel, Witt

Nays: 0

Exc.: Matthews

Prepared By: Jill Petty, Administrator

Meeting Dates: 2/8, 2/15

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Establishes telephone line for victims of Military Sexual Trauma (MST). Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Military Sexual Trauma affects 22 percent of women veterans
- Majority of MST cases go unreported
- Impact of military culture on likelihood of seeking help

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

BACKGROUND: The 2009 Legislature passed House Bill 2718 which created a Task Force on Women Veterans' Health Care (Task Force) and required the Task Force to submit recommendations. The Task Force's final report found MST prevalent among veterans. One in five women have reported a MST incident. The final report prioritized the need for veterans to have access to MST counseling. House Bill 2406 would establish a dedicated MST hotline that would allow veterans to get help in a confidential and secure way.