

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: 6 - 0 - 0

Yeas: Boone, Huffman, Matthews, Parrish, Esquivel, Witt

Nays: 0

Exc.: 0

Prepared By: Jill Petty, Administrator

Meeting Dates: 2/8, 2/22

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Modifies existing statutory language requiring Director of Department of Veterans' Affairs (Director) to establish a third Oregon Veterans' Home (Home) in Roseburg, Oregon. Authorizes Director to seek federal grant funds to establish Home

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Need for skilled nursing bed space
- Proximity of proposed home to Roseburg VA Hospital
- Legislative support for Roseburg VA Hospital

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

BACKGROUND: The United States Department of Veterans' Affairs estimates more than 900 skilled nursing facility beds are needed in Oregon. There is one veterans' home in The Dalles with 151 beds. House Bill 2761 enacted by the 1995 Legislature authorized the Director of the Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs (Director) to solicit proposals for a donation of land to build a second veterans' home. It limited the Director's authority to solicit proposals to build additional veterans' homes. The limiting criterion required the second veterans' home to be built and viable before a third veterans' home was built.

Pursuant to House Bill 2761, Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs received proposals from five counties including Linn County and Jackson County. The site evaluation committee recommended Linn County for the second veterans' home with 150 beds. They also recommended a building a third veterans' home in Jackson County. House Bill 2578 authorizes the Department of Veterans' Affairs to build a third veterans' home.