

Joint Committee on Ways and Means

Carrier – House: Rep. McLane
Carrier – Senate: Sen. Verger

Revenue: No revenue impact

Fiscal: Fiscal statement issued

Action: Do Pass

Vote: 23 – 0 – 2

House

Yeas: Beyer, Buckley, Cowan, Freeman, Garrard, Komp, McLane, Nathanson, Nolan, Richardson,
G. Smith, Thatcher, Whisnant

Nays:

Exc: Kotek

Senate

Yeas: Devlin, Edwards, Girod, Johnson, Monroe, Nelson, Thomsen, Verger, Whitsett, Winters

Nays:

Exc: Bates

Prepared By: Michelle Deister, Legislative Fiscal Office

Meeting Date: May 27, 2011

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Modifies existing statutory language to direct the Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs to establish a third Oregon Veterans' Home in Roseburg, Oregon.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Need for additional skilled nursing beds for veterans
- Impact of potential reductions in Medicaid reimbursement rates and increases in provider taxes to the solvency of the existing veterans' home and veterans' homes proposed for construction
- Process for amassing construction funding from local partners and the federal Veterans Affairs
- The extent to which the Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs is obligated to construct veterans' home in the absence of viable operational funding

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 to solicit proposals for a donation of land to build a second veterans' home. HB 2761 limited the department's authority to solicit proposals to build additional veterans' homes, requiring a period of evaluation to determine the efficiency and effectiveness of the two homes in operation.

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

To be eligible for Federal construction funds, a local match of 35% of the facility cost is required, which the Department has secured from local governments and donations of land in The Dalles and in Linn County.