

**REVENUE: No revenue impact**

**FISCAL: Minimal fiscal impact, no statement issued**

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<b>Action:</b>	Do Pass as Amended and Be Printed Engrossed
<b>Vote:</b>	6 - 0 - 0
<b>Yeas:</b>	Boone, Huffman, Matthews, Parrish, Esquivel, Witt
<b>Nays:</b>	0
<b>Exc.:</b>	0
<b>Prepared By:</b>	Jill Petty, Administrator
<b>Meeting Dates:</b>	3/29, 4/12

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:** Allows for development of two additional veterans' homes. Requires Department of Veterans' Affairs (Department) to contract a study on demand for skilled nursing beds, where beds are needed and whether veterans utilizing beds could be cared for through community care. Requires Department report on study to Legislative Assembly on or before May 31, 2015.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Growing need for skilled nursing care for veterans
- Possibility of merging House Bill 3208 and House Bill 3583
- Need for legislative authorization for Department to conduct study

**EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:** Requires Director of Department to contract study on demand for skilled nursing beds, where beds are needed and whether veterans utilizing them could instead be cared for through community care. Requires Department to report on study to Legislative Assembly on or before May 31, 2015.

**BACKGROUND:** United States Department of Veterans' Affairs (USDVA) estimates Oregon needs an additional 907 skilled nursing facility beds. Oregon currently has one veterans' home located in The Dalles with 151 beds.

House Bill 2761 (1995) authorized the Director of the Department (Director) to solicit proposals to build a second veterans' home. Pursuant to House Bill 2761 the Director solicited and received proposals from five counties. The Director followed the site evaluation committee's recommendation and awarded the proposal to Linn County, Oregon. This led to the construction of the second veterans' home in Lebanon, Oregon creating an additional 150 beds. According to the USDVA estimate this still leaves Oregon with a shortfall of beds.

Current law provides for a maximum of two veterans' homes. House Bill 3208 A authorizes the Director to begin planning and developing two additional veterans' homes if the Director determines the existing two facilities are insufficient to provide for Oregon's veterans' needs. House Bill 3208 A also requires the Director to contract a study on the demand for skilled nursing beds, where they are needed and whether veterans utilizing them could be cared for through community care and report the results of the study to the Legislative Assembly.