

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Minimal fiscal impact, no statement issued

Action: Do Pass
Vote: 3 - 0 - 1
Yeas: Monnes Anderson, Olsen, Boquist
Nays: 0
Exc.: President Courtney
Prepared By: Lori Brocker, Administrator
Meeting Dates: 4/13, 5/4

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Directs Oregon Military Department (OMD) to report biennially to legislative committee on military cultural barriers to successful reintegration. Directs OMD to recommend, by October 1, 2014, legislation for eliminating barriers to reintegration. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Difficulties with reintegration
- Oregon Military Department's role in reintegration
- Institutionalizing existing philosophy toward reintegration

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

BACKGROUND: The 2009 Legislative Assembly passed Senate Bill 700, which created the Legislative Task Force on Veterans' Reintegration (Task Force). The Task Force determined that as many as 40 percent of returning Iraq and Afghanistan veterans had some level of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), anxiety, depression or other emotional or mental health condition. The Task Force found that the characteristics that the military culture promotes, such as strength and teamwork, may work against veterans when veterans consider seeking help. According to the Task Force, many veterans do not seek reintegration assistance because they see a request for assistance as an admission of weakness.

House Bill 3500 directs the Oregon Military Department (OMD) to address the problem of resistance to reintegration assistance and encourages the OMD to propose solutions.