

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: No fiscal impact

Action:	Do Pass
Vote:	7 - 0 - 1
Yeas:	Barnhart, Berger, Freeman, Holvey, Wingard, Hunt, Olson
Nays:	-
Exc.:	Garrett
Prepared By:	Jim Stembridge, Administrator
Meeting Dates:	5/26, 6/2

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Requires Commissioner of Labor to notify Director of Veterans Affairs when information or complaint is filed regarding alleged violation of employment rights of militia members or discrimination against members of the uniformed military, if authorized by the members.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Importance of veterans gaining access to benefits
- Veteran hiring preferences
- Current legal limitations to communications between the Commissioner and the Director
- Case of returning veteran who lost job, which Director of Veterans Affairs learned from reading newspaper

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

BACKGROUND: Specific provisions protecting the employment rights and re-employment rights of Oregon National Guard members were enacted by the Legislative Assembly in House Bill 3256 (2009). These protections address denying a person initial employment, reemployment following leave taken for service in a uniformed service, retention in employment, promotion, or any other term or condition of employment because the person applies, performs, or has performed in a uniformed service; or discharging, expelling, disciplining, or threatening a person for exercising or attempting to exercise rights to participate in a uniformed service. Violations are grounds for discrimination complaints processed by the Commissioner of Labor. Veterans Service Officers associated with the Oregon Department of Veterans Affairs can assist veterans with employment and re-employment rights, as well as incidents of discrimination, if they become aware of the incidents.