

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: No fiscal impact

Action: Be Adopted
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: Urges Congress to require United States Department of Veterans Affairs to pay, under certain circumstances, veterans' transportation costs incurred pursuant to emergency care.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Current system of veteran transport between health care facilities
- Enabling veteran access to veteran benefits

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

BACKGROUND: The Legislative Task Force on Veterans' Transportation (Task Force), created by Senate Bill 98 in 2009, noted that, under current law, the United States Department of Veterans Affairs Veterans Health Administration (VA) generally pays costs incurred by a veteran who needs immediate medical attention at the nearest emergency room. Once the veteran is stable, the veteran must be transported to a VA facility. The Task Force discovered that hospitals were not being reimbursed when they transferred veterans from their hospitals to the VA facility.

House Joint Memorial 6 urges Congress to require the VA to pay a veteran's transportation costs incurred when the veteran is transported to a VA facility after seeking emergency care.