

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: No fiscal impact

Action: Be Adopted
Vote: 5 - 0 - 1
Yeas: Boone, Huffman, Matthews, Parrish, Esquivel
Nays: 0
Exc.: Witt
Prepared By: Jill Petty, Administrator
Meeting Dates: 3/22, 3/29

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Urges Congress to require United States Armed Forces to investigate cultural barriers and provide proposed solutions.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Struggling service members are not seeking help
- Senior military commanders encourage service members to seek help
- Mid level commanders need to embrace policies of senior command

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

BACKGROUND: The 2009 Legislature passed Senate Bill 700 which created a Task Force on Veterans' Reintegration (Task Force) to submit recommendations to the Legislature. The Task Force's findings showed that military culture impeded reintegration by discouraging troops from self-identifying medical, emotional and psychological needs. The Task Force recommended drafting a Joint Memorial urging Congress to have the Pentagon examine military cultural barriers and draft recommendations to eliminate these barriers.