

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Fiscal statement issued

Action:	Do Pass
Vote:	6 - 0 - 0
Yeas:	Boone, Huffman, Matthews, Parrish, Esquivel, Witt
Nays:	0
Exc.:	0
Prepared By:	Jill Petty, Administrator
Meeting Dates:	3/29, 4/5

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Allows Department of Veterans' Affairs (ODVA) to assign more than one employee to provide oversight of management of second Oregon Veterans' Home planned for Linn County. Permits second Oregon Veterans' Home to admit patients eligible under federal law. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Veterans' Homes operated by contracted, not state employees
- ODVA responsible for oversight and administration
- Importance for ODVA to have latitude in assigning employees

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

BACKGROUND: Oregon currently has one Veterans' Home in The Dalles. The Veterans' Home in The Dalles has two Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs (ODVA) employees providing management oversight, with outside contractors providing care. House Bill 2761 enacted by the 1995 Legislature authorized the Director of the Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs to solicit proposals to build a second Veterans' Home. The winning proposal went to Linn County, Oregon. Current law authorizes ODVA to assign only one full time employee to provide oversight of the management of the facility. Senate Bill 73 gives the Director of ODVA the discretion to provide additional oversight of the management at the future Veterans' Home in Linn County.

Current law restricts patients of the second Veterans' Home to patients who are veterans, spouses of veterans or certain gold star family members. Senate Bill 73 removes the restriction to allow the patient pool to include persons eligible under federal law. By removing the restriction, if the eligibility for admission into a veterans' home should change under federal law it would be unnecessary for ODVA to return to the Legislature with a new bill.