

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Minimal fiscal impact, no 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: 4/5

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Requires state agencies to make reasonable efforts to determine if customer or client is veteran. Requires Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs and reintegration team of Oregon Military Department to provide contact information to veterans for obtaining information on benefits and service. Requires Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs and Oregon Military Department to provide contact information and materials to establishments operated to provide food to needy or indigent persons and requires establishments to provide contact information to veterans. Repeals sunset of provisions requiring agency to disseminate information to veterans.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Outreach brings more federal money to Oregon
- A more proactive approach to outreach is needed

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

BACKGROUND: The 2008 Governor's Task Force on Veterans' Services (Task Force) found that while 351,000 veterans are identified through the federal census, only 80,000 veterans take advantage of veterans benefits. The Task Force found that substantial amounts of federal aid (benefits, compensation and health benefits) were consistently unrealized because of a systemic failure of state, regional and local public agencies to ask customer or client about their veteran status. House Bill 3104 directed the Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs (ODVA) to create a website to provide information to veterans on benefits and services. It required state agencies to include a link on their websites to the ODVA website and for ODVA to provide state agencies with materials on requesting veterans' benefits.

Senate Bill 241 expands the current statute requiring the Oregon Military Department (OMD) provide contact information to agencies. Agencies are required to inquire if their customers or clients are veterans and if they are, to provide them with materials about contact information for ODVA and the reintegration team of OMD. It also requires ODVA and OMD to provide informational materials to establishments providing food to indigent persons.

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This summary has not been adopted or officially endorsed by action of the committee.