

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Minimal fiscal impact, no statement issued

Action:	Do Pass as Amended and Be Printed Engrossed
Vote:	4 - 0 - 0
Yeas:	Monnes Anderson, Olsen, President Courtney, Boquist
Nays:	0
Exc.:	0
Prepared By:	Lori Brocker, Administrator
Meeting Dates:	2/16, 3/2

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Requires state agency to make reasonable effort to ask if customer or client is veteran. Requires Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs (ODVA) and Oregon Military Department (OMD) to provide contact information and materials about veterans' benefits and services to state agency. Requires state agency to make reasonable effort to disseminate information from ODVA and OMD. Requires ODVA and OMD to provide contact information and materials about veterans' benefits and services to establishments that provide food to needy or indigent persons and requires establishments to make materials available to patrons and make reasonable effort to identify veterans. Repeals sunset of provisions requiring agency to disseminate information to veterans.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Agency reaction to and implementation of Executive Orders 09-03 and 09-09
- Dissemination of information about veterans' benefits by ODVA
- "Welcome Home" DVD distributed to persons returning from deployment
- Impact on state of federal money for veterans' benefits
- Utilization of food banks and food pantries by veterans

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: Requires ODVA and OMD to provide contact information and materials to establishments that provide food to needy or indigent persons and requires establishments to make materials available to patrons and make reasonable effort to identify veterans.

BACKGROUND: The 2008 Governor's Task Force on Veterans' Services (the Task Force) determined that some veterans do not receive veterans' benefits or services because agencies do not know they are veterans. The Task Force recognized that helping veterans access benefits would help them and their communities. In response to the findings of the Task Force, former Governor Kulongoski issued Executive Order 09-03, requiring all agencies to include a question about veteran status on any agency form and requiring agencies to provide that information to the Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs (ODVA). Executive Order 09-03 was superseded and amended by Executive Order 09-09, which eliminated the requirement that agencies ask about veteran status, but added a requirement that agencies link their websites to the ODVA website and included language encouraging agencies to work with ODVA on outreach to veterans. Executive Order 09-09 also required ODVA to provide outreach materials for agency offices and facilities. The 2009 Legislative Assembly passed House Bill 3104, requiring ODVA to do additional outreach to veterans by placing contact information in agency and county government facilities.

Senate Bill 241A requires state agencies to make reasonable efforts to ask about veteran status and seeks to expand outreach to veterans by including food pantries and food banks as entities required to disseminate contact information and materials and make reasonable efforts to identify veterans. Many veterans, particularly those who are homeless, use food banks or pantries and may be more easily reached in that context.

3/9/2011 9:07:00 AM

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