

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: No fiscal impact

Action:	Be Adopted 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:	2/9, 3/16

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Urges United States Department of Veterans Affairs (USDVA) to increase emphasis on transitional housing for homeless veterans.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Transitional housing in urban areas of state
- Limited transitional housing in rural areas
- Federal housing programs

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: Removes provision relating to home ownership.

BACKGROUND: The United States Department of Veterans Affairs (USDVA) estimates that, on any given day, more than 130,000 veterans are homeless. The number would likely be much higher if veterans living in substandard housing or at imminent risk of homelessness were included. There are more than 3,000 homeless veterans in Oregon. While a number of organizations, particularly in metropolitan areas, provide transitional housing for homeless veterans, the demand throughout Oregon is much greater than the supply.

The USDVA provides a variety of services to homeless veterans, including specialized health care programs, counseling and outreach centers. In addition, the Department of Housing and Urban Development and Department of Veterans Affairs Supported Housing Program (HUD-VASH) provides housing and ongoing case management services to enable veterans to move from homelessness to living independently. The HUD-VASH program includes distribution of vouchers that may be used by homeless veterans to secure housing. The program is particularly successful in those areas where adequate housing is available. The HUD-VASH vouchers have not worked as well in rural areas where transitional housing is limited.

Senate Joint Memorial 1A affirms the current programs for homeless veterans and urges the USDVA to increase its emphasis on providing transitional housing for veterans in Oregon and throughout the nation.