

A-Engrossed
Senate Joint Memorial 1

Ordered by the Senate March 21
Including Senate Amendments dated March 21

Sponsored by Senators MONNES ANDERSON, BOQUIST; Senator EDWARDS (Presession filed.)

SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure.

Urges United States Department of Veterans Affairs to place greater emphasis on transitional housing for homeless veterans.

JOINT MEMORIAL

1
2 To the President of the United States and the Senate and the House of Representatives of the United
3 States of America, in Congress assembled:

4 We, your memorialists, the Seventy-sixth Legislative Assembly of the State of Oregon, in legis-
5 lative session assembled, respectfully represent as follows:

6 Whereas our veterans have performed admirably and bravely in defense of our nation; and

7 Whereas homelessness is a serious problem among veterans with, according to United States
8 Department of Veterans Affairs estimates, 107,000 veterans facing homelessness on any given night;
9 and

10 Whereas it is estimated that one out of three homeless men who are sleeping in doorways, alleys
11 or cardboard boxes in our cities and rural communities has worn a uniform and served this country;
12 and

13 Whereas while only eight percent of the general population can claim veteran status, nearly
14 one-fifth of the homeless population are veterans; and

15 Whereas in addition to the complex set of factors that influence homelessness, a large number
16 of displaced and at-risk veterans live with the lingering effects of post-traumatic stress disorder and
17 substance abuse, which are compounded by a lack of family and support networks; and

18 Whereas although the United States Department of Veterans Affairs' specialized programs for
19 homeless veterans served more than 92,000 veterans in 2009, this left more than 100,000 veterans
20 who experienced homelessness and had to seek assistance from local government agencies and
21 community- and faith-based service organizations; and

22 Whereas the United States Department of Veterans Affairs has numerous programs designed to
23 help homeless veterans, and the department needs more flexibility in its approach to easing the
24 homeless crisis among veterans; now, therefore,

25 **Be It Resolved by the Legislative Assembly of the State of Oregon:**

26 (1) The United States Department of Veterans Affairs, in addition to the department's existing
27 programs for homeless veterans, is urged to place increased emphasis on transitional housing for
28 veterans.

NOTE: Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter [*italic and bracketed*] is existing law to be omitted.
New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 (2) A copy of this memorial shall be sent to the President of the United States, to the Senate
2 Majority Leader, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, to the Secretary of Veterans Af-
3 fairs and to each member of the Oregon Congressional Delegation.

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