

FISCAL IMPACT OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION

Measure: HB 2422

Seventy-Seventh Oregon Legislative Assembly – 2013 Regular Session
Legislative Fiscal Office

*Only Impacts on Original or Engrossed
Versions are Considered Official*

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Measure Description:

Requires Director of Human Services to inform Director of Veterans' Affairs of receipt of written information from member or veteran of uniformed service only when authorized by member or veteran and upon implementation or upgrade of electronic delivery system.

Government Unit(s) Affected:

Department of Human Services (DHS), Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs (ODVA), Oregon Health Authority (OHA)

Local Government Mandate:

This bill does not affect local governments' service levels or shared revenues sufficient to trigger Section 15, Article XI of the Oregon Constitution.

Analysis:

House Bill 2422 requires the Department of Human Services to notify the Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs of the names and addresses of uniformed service members or veterans who have applied for certain specified public assistance administered by the Oregon Health Authority and DHS, including the Oregon Health Plan, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, Social Security, employment related day care, programs and services for seniors and persons with disabilities, as well as vocational rehabilitation services and programs. DHS is only required to release this information to ODVA when authorized to do so by the uniformed service member or veteran.

Note that the bill requires only DHS to notify ODVA, but the Oregon Health Plan is administered by the Oregon Health Authority. The two agencies report that the reporting required by this bill would be generated by the DHS/OHA Shared Services Information Technology Division, so there would be no issue.

Department of Human Services, Oregon Health Authority

At this time, the fiscal impact of this bill is indeterminate. Currently, when individuals or families are applying for benefits, DHS asks whether anyone applying is in the military or is a veteran – or is a spouse/dependent of someone who is. This information is not required for DHS program eligibility, but is used to help determine what state or local resources the applicant may be entitled to or could benefit from. There is no process in place to collect the applicant's written authorization allowing DHS to notify ODVA of the member/veteran's name and address.

The bill provides for DHS to comply with the provisions of this bill only upon implementation or upgrade of an electronic delivery system that will enable DHS to provide the notice required in a cost-effective and efficient manner. The bill directs DHS, in consultation with ODVA, to adopt rules to implement the provisions of this bill. Depending on those rules and associated process/system changes, DHS may be able to implement the bill with existing agency resources. However, if the system requirements and administrative workload exceed expectations, DHS may need to return to the Emergency Board or Legislative Assembly to seek additional direction or resources.

Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs

Passage of this bill is anticipated to have minimal fiscal impact to ODVA. The agency has an existing outreach process in place. Currently, arrangements exist between ODVA and other state agencies (including the Department of Corrections and the Bureau of Labor and Industries) to collect contact information for veterans. Any additional uniformed service members or veterans referred to ODVA through DHS and OHA with passage of this bill are expected to be served through existing staff and resources.