

PRELIMINARY STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**CARRIER:**

Senate Committee on Veterans and Emergency Preparedness

REVENUE: No revenue impact**FISCAL: Fiscal statement issued (indeterminate)****SUBSEQUENT REFERRAL TO: None****Action:****Vote:****Yeas:****Nays:****Exc.:****Prepared By:** Cheyenne Ross, Administrator**Meeting Dates:** 3/21, 3/28

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Requires Department of Human Services (DHS) to communicate veteran's name and address to Department of Veterans' Affairs (ODVA) monthly, if authorized by veteran, when veteran makes written request about certain assistance programs. Authorizes DHS to make rules to that end.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Department of Human Services' good work on the measure
- Agencies like BOLI and DHS being "great partners" with ODVA, assisting with outreach to veterans
- Capacity of state assistance programs to go farther, if more veterans able to take advantage of federal benefits

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:

BACKGROUND: About 330,000 veterans currently reside in Oregon. The Department of Veterans' Affairs (ODVA) estimates about 230,000 do not receive benefits, and of those, around 100,000 would qualify if they could be identified and contacted. In 2012, the Legislature enacted House Bill 4064, which directed the Bureau of Labor and Industries (BOLI) to inquire about the veteran status of individuals seeking services, and to share that information with ODVA. This program was termed the "No Wrong Door Policy." The implementation of House Bill 4064 led to approximately 70 veterans being identified and connected with ODVA thus far. House Bill 2422 is based on the success of House Bill 4064, but has the potential, over time, to reach approximately 800,000 adults who interact with the Department of Human Services annually, to facilitate the communication of information to ODVA, with the veteran's permission, in order to identify and serve those that may be eligible to receive benefits.

*House Committee Vote: 7 • 0 • 0**House Floor Vote: 58 • 0 • 2*