

**PRELIMINARY STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY****CARRIER:**

Senate Committee on Veterans and Emergency Preparedness

**REVENUE: No revenue impact****FISCAL: May have fiscal impact, statement not yet issued****SUBSEQUENT REFERRAL TO: Ways and Means****Action:****Vote:****Yeas:****Nays:****Exc.:****Prepared By:** Cheyenne Ross, Administrator**Meeting Dates:** 4/11, 4/18

**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:** Requires Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs (ODVA) create public information campaign regarding suicide prevention. Requires ODVA increase breadth of service provision via alternative means, in addition to using county veterans service officers (VSOs). Declares emergency, effective on passage.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Oregon's relatively high suicide rate, especially among veterans, compared to other states
- Inclusion of suicide prevention in overall services and outreach to veterans
- Anticipated increase
- Saving lives at front end, through prevention, versus grave outcomes and costs on back end
- Value of community partners
- ODOT's idea to link to ODVA via "donate" button at time of online vehicle registration renewal

**EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:**

*[-1 amendment]* Creates suicide prevention program within ODVA to coordinate public information campaign. Establishes accounting structure. Adds voluntary contribution check-off box on individual income tax return forms, and permits voluntary contribution at time of vehicle registration or renewal.

*[-2 amendment]* Duplicate of -1, except no means for voluntary contribution at time of vehicle registration.

*[-3 amendment]* Duplicate of -1, except voluntary contribution a time of vehicle registration would be limited to renewals only, and only online.

*[-4 amendment]* Incorporates -3s. Clarifies that ODOT is merely a conduit; contributions at the time of online renewal of vehicle registration to be received directly by ODVA.

**BACKGROUND:** According to a report published in September 2010 by the Oregon Department of Human Services, Office of Disease Prevention and Epidemiology, Injury and Violence Prevention Program, there are more injury-related deaths in Oregon due to suicide than due to car crashes. The age-adjusted suicide rate among Oregonians in 2007 was 35 percent higher than the national average, and suicide rates have been increasing since 2000. At the time the report was published, approximately 27 percent of suicides occurred among veterans. The suicide rate among male veterans was 45.7 for every 100,000, compared to 27.4 for every 100,000, among males who were not veterans; and significantly higher suicide rates were identified among male veterans ages 18-24, 35-44 and 45-54 in particular, when compared to nonveteran males. Senate Bill 762 adds a suicide prevention program to the mix of outreach and other services administered by the Oregon Department of Veterans Affairs, funded by voluntary contributions.

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

Committee Services Form – 2013 Regular Session