

**REVENUE:** Revenue statement issued

**FISCAL:** Fiscal statement issued

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<b>Action:</b>	Do Pass and Be Referred to the Committee on Ways and Means by Prior Reference
<b>Vote:</b>	9 - 0 - 0
<b>Yeas:</b>	Gallegos, Gelser, Gilliam, Gomberg, Keny-Guyer, Olson, Whisnant, Whitsett, Tomei
<b>Nays:</b>	0
<b>Exc.:</b>	0
<b>Prepared By:</b>	Regina Wilson, Administrator
<b>Meeting Dates:</b>	3/6, 3/15

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:** Raises county clerk property filing and recording fees from fifteen dollars to twenty dollars for purposes of assisting veterans. Requires minimum twenty-five percent of moneys deposited in Emergency Housing Account to assist veterans at risk of becoming or currently experiencing homelessness. Allocates twenty-five percent Home Ownership Assistance account fund minimum to serve low income veterans and families of veterans.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Goal of transitioning from homelessness to homeownership
- Ability to connect to services with housing stability
- Number of veterans likely to be homeless

**EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:** No amendment.

**BACKGROUND:** Compared to individuals of the same age range among the general population, veterans aged 18-30 are twice as likely to be homeless. In 2009, Housing and Urban Development (HUD) stated, in its point – in - time count, 59,390 veterans were experiencing homelessness. Veterans who experience homelessness may have linkages to poverty, unemployment, mental illness and substance abuse. According to the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness, almost half a million veterans pay more than half of their income towards rent. Over half of these individuals have incomes below the federal poverty level. Homelessness is closely associated with poor health. Veterans consistently exhibit high rates of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), traumatic brain injury (TBI), and sexual trauma. About half of homeless veterans have serious mental illness; 70 percent have substance abuse problems and over half have other health conditions. House Bill 2417 raises property filing and recording fees by five dollars for the purpose of assisting veterans with housing needs.