

PRELIMINARY STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**CARRIER:**

Senate Committee on Veterans and Emergency Preparedness

REVENUE: No revenue impact**FISCAL: No fiscal impact****SUBSEQUENT REFERRAL TO: None****Action:****Vote:****Yeas:****Nays:****Exc.:****Prepared By:** Cheyenne Ross, Administrator**Meeting Dates:** 5/2, 5/9

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Supports “Veterans Treatment Courts,” concentrating nonviolent criminal cases involving veteran defendants on same docket before same judicial official, for case management by multidisciplinary teams and volunteer veterans.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Provisions of resolution
- No advocacy for avoidance of responsibility or special treatment

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:

BACKGROUND: There are many examples of specialized courts or dockets, both civil and criminal, including probate courts, tax courts, juvenile courts, and family courts. Concentrating similar cases together not only improves overall efficiency, but permits the development of expertise among judges, attorneys, probation officers, court-appointed, service providers and any others involved. It encourages better reporting and monitoring of any conditions that may be imposed and improves communications between participants, and this heightened attention and elevated service improves outcomes. Specialized courts for veterans have evolved primarily to address veteran defendants in nonviolent criminal cases in a manner that is sensitive to the possibility of underlying issues related to military service. The model, or ideal, veterans court is entirely distinguishable from other specialized courts because of the involvement of veterans who volunteer to mentor and support the defendants who are veterans.

House Concurrent Resolution 24 supports the development of specialized courts for veterans and encourages Oregon veterans to volunteer as mentors.

House committee vote: 7 • 0 • 0

House floor vote: 58 • 0 • 2