

PRELIMINARY STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**CARRIER:**

Senate Committee on Veterans and Emergency Preparedness

REVENUE: No revenue impact (A-engrossed version)**FISCAL: No fiscal impact (A-engrossed version)****SUBSEQUENT REFERRAL TO: None****Action:****Vote:****Yeas:****Nays:****Exc.:****Prepared By:** Cheyenne Ross, Administrator**Meeting Dates:** 5/16, 5/23, 5/30

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Allows active servicemembers to suspend or terminate telecommunications services, internet services, television services, health spa services, and health club exercise or athletic activities via written notice to service providers. Requires servicemember to provide proof of official orders showing active status with written notice of suspension or termination. Permits proof of active status to be provided within 90 days of written notice if delay prompted by military necessity or other reasonable circumstances. Makes suspension or termination effective upon day written notice given. Authorizes servicemembers to reinstate suspended or terminated services on same terms and conditions with written notice to provider within 90 days of termination of active status. Requires providers reinstate same or substantially similar services within 30 days of receipt of written notice. Prohibits providers from charging for termination, suspension or reinstatement. Relieves servicemembers from liability for payment during suspension.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Provisions of measure
- Support of telecommunications community
- Oregon Military Department responsibility to inform servicemembers
- Provisions of -A2 amendment and various service providers should be treated the same or differently

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:

[-A2 amendment] Deletes provisions concerning telecommunications services and refers to 50 United States Code appendix section 535a, on “termination of telephone service contracts.”

BACKGROUND: When servicemembers are called to duty away from their Home of Record, they may not be able to utilize services they have contracted for, such as internet, telecommunications, and health clubs memberships.

In 2009, the Legislature passed HB 3020A incorporating the consumer protection provisions of the federal Servicemembers Civil Relief Act (“SCRA”) into Oregon’s general body of consumer protection law, the Unlawful Trade Practices Act (“UTPA”). The SCRA contains a provision for the termination of telephone service contracts but not for athletic facility contracts. House Bill 2083A allows service members to suspend or terminate internet, telecommunications, television, health club and spa contractual services when ordered to report for military duty.

House committee vote: 7 • 0 • 0

House floor vote: 58 • 0 • 2

5/23/2013 4:02:00 PM *

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

Committee Services Form – 2013 Regular Session