

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: 3/21

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Urges Congress to overturn U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs' regulation prohibiting provision of service or therapy dogs for veterans with emotional and mental disabilities.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:

BACKGROUND: Many veterans suffer from physical, emotional and mental disabilities due to military service. Service dogs, "trained for the aid of [veterans] with mental illnesses, including post-traumatic stress disorder," are authorized to be provided under 38 U.S.C. 1714(c)(3); however, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs issued an order on September 5, 2012, which, among other items, prohibits funding for mental health service dogs. House Joint Memorial 1 supports lifting this prohibition.

House Committee Vote: 7 • 0 • 0

House Floor Vote: 55 • 0 • 5