

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Fiscal statement issued

Action:	Do Pass as Amended and Be Printed Engrossed and Be Referred to the Committee on Ways and Means
Vote:	7 - 0 - 0
Yeas:	Boone, Esquivel, Fagan, Huffman, Parrish, Witt, Matthews
Nays:	0
Exc.:	0
Prepared By:	Elizabeth Edwards, Administrator
Meeting Dates:	2/12, 2/19, 2/21

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Instructs Oregon Department of Transportation Director (ODOT) to share names and addresses of service members and veterans with Oregon Department of Veterans’ Affairs Director (ODVA) on monthly basis when service members or veterans make written inquiry regarding applications for licenses, identification cards, certificates of vehicle title, or vehicle registrations. Requires service member or veteran’s written authorization to release his or her name and address to ODVA. Authorizes ODOT to adopt rules, in consultation with ODVA, regarding method of implementing notification procedure.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Specifics of how program could be implemented
- One-on-one client interactions during driver license and ID card transactions, but only every eight years
- Decreased efficiency when identifying veterans through registration applications, but every two years
- Importance of identifying veterans and helping them access benefits
- Helping veterans access benefits brings in federal dollars to Oregon
- Only 27 percent of veterans use benefits
- ODVA’s mission to reach out to veterans accomplished in part through strategic agency partnerships

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: Corrects named recipient of notification from ODOT to ODVA.

BACKGROUND: Oregon presently has 330,000 veterans, of which around 100,000 are receiving benefits. These veterans obtained approximately \$1.9 billion in benefits annually. ODVA estimates that at least 100,000 of the 230,000 veterans currently not receiving benefits could qualify for an additional \$1.5 to \$2 billion in federal benefits. A major hurdle to accessing these federal dollars is identifying and contacting veterans who qualify for assistance. The Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) conducts 2.8 million transactions per year and most adults will have some interaction with the agency every two to three years.

The 2012 Oregon Legislature enacted House Bill 4064, which directed the Bureau of Labor and Industries (BOLI) to inquire of individuals seeking services from BOLI of their veteran status and share that information with ODVA. This program was termed the “No Wrong Door Policy.” House Bill 4064, upon which this bill is based, led to approximately 70 veterans being identified and connected with ODVA. House Bill 2421A facilitates the sharing of information between ODOT, specifically the DMV, and ODVA in order to identify service members and veterans who may be eligible for benefits.