

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Fiscal statement issued

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<b>Action:</b>	Do Pass
<b>Vote:</b>	6 - 0 - 1
<b>Yeas:</b>	Boone, Esquivel, Huffman, Parrish, Witt, Matthews
<b>Nays:</b>	0
<b>Exc.:</b>	Fagan
<b>Prepared By:</b>	Elizabeth Edwards, Administrator
<b>Meeting Dates:</b>	3/5

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:** Authorizes Oregon Department of Veterans’ Affairs (ODVA) to establish via rule reasonable compensation for ordinary and unusual services rendered by ODVA as conservator and personal representative. Removes ceiling on ODVA’s compensation of five percent of income to veteran’s estate. Declares emergency; effective upon passage.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Conservatorship Program receives \$40,000 per month subsidy from Loan Department; with seven percent fee, actual subsidy is around \$18,333 per month
- Series of articles from Oregonian regarding problems with veteran conservatorship
- Role of living relatives and conservatorship
- Potential for ODVA loans to mirror U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs loans

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

**BACKGROUND:** The Oregon Department of Veterans’ Affairs (ODVA) operates a Conservatorship Program for veterans who are deemed incompetent by either the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs or the courts. Under current law, the ODVA may charge a fee of five percent on all income under its management plus reasonable compensation for unusual services to cover the cost of the conservatorship service. Destitute veterans without funds are not charged for these services. The Conservatorship Program is not self-sufficient and the ODVA draws funds from its Loan Department to supplement the cost of the program. House Bill 2044 removes the five percent fee for reasonable compensation and allows the ODVA to establish reasonable compensation for its services as conservators and personal representatives via rule.