

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Fiscal statement issued

Action:	Do Pass and Be Returned to President’s Desk for Referral to Another Committee
Vote:	4 - 1 - 0
Yeas:	Knopp, Shields, Steiner Hayward, Monnes Anderson
Nays:	Kruse
Exc.:	0
Prepared By:	Sandy Thiele-Cirka, Administrator
Meeting Dates:	2/7, 2/28

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Adds post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) to definition of “debilitating medical condition” for the purposes of authorizing medical use of marijuana.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Multiple attempts of adding PTSD through administrative rules process
- Concerns with current petition process
- Explanation of PTSD
- Impact of PTSD on returning troops
- Current studies addressing PTSD and the use of medical marijuana
- Personal experiences with PTSD and medical marijuana
- Previous activities relating to including PTSD into the medical marijuana program
- Intent of Senate Health Care & Human Services Committee moving bill forward

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

BACKGROUND: The Oregon Medical Marijuana Act (OMMA) was approved by Oregonians in November 1998. OMMA is a state registry program located in the Public Health Division, Oregon Health Authority (OHA). The program pursues administrative streamlining processes in an effort to better serve the patients while maintaining a high level of confidentiality. Multiple states have requested information on Oregon's program to use as a model for their own medical marijuana initiatives and registration systems.

The National Institute of Mental Health defines post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) as an anxiety disorder that some individuals get after seeing or living through a dangerous event. When in danger, it’s natural to experience fear. This fear can trigger many split-second changes in the body to prepare to defend against the danger or to avoid it. This “fight-or-flight” response is a health reaction meant to protect a person from harm. But in PTSD, this reaction is changed or damaged. People who have PTSD may feel stressed or frightened even when they’re no longer in danger.

Senate Bill 281 is requesting that PTSD included as a debilitating condition to qualify in the OMMA.

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