

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: No fiscal impact

Action:	Be Adopted
Vote:	7 - 0 - 0
Yeas:	Boone, Esquivel, Fagan, Huffman, Parrish, Witt, Matthews
Nays:	0
Exc.:	0
Prepared By:	Elizabeth Edwards, Administrator
Meeting Dates:	4/9

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Supports ongoing judicial initiatives to create Veterans Treatment Courts throughout Oregon. Encourages Oregon veterans to volunteer as mentors with local Veterans Treatment Courts.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Number of counties in Oregon with programs like Veterans Treatment Courts
- Support for this model and successful use in drug and family courts
- Recognition and initial step toward implementing Veterans Treatment Courts
- Importance of identifying and addressing other influences for recidivism of veterans
- Expansion to other counties
- Under review in Multnomah County

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

BACKGROUND: The first Veterans Treatment Court began in Buffalo, New York in 2008. Now there are over 100 Veterans Treatment Courts throughout the United States. These courts permit judges to develop expertise on veterans’ issues and work with interdisciplinary teams assigned to cases involving nonviolent offenses. The model requires the veteran to comply with all ordinary court-ordered conditions, such as making regular court appearances, successful completion of treatment programs, and random testing for substance abuse.

Over 12 percent of Oregon’s overall population consists of veterans. Since 2002, more than 30,000 members of the Armed Forces from Oregon have been deployed on active duty. When veterans return home, some encounter difficulties reentering civilian society due to service-related injuries or trauma. To date, Klamath and Marion Counties sought federal training and launched Veterans Treatment Courts. House Concurrent Resolution 24 supports making Veterans Treatment Courts accessible to veterans throughout the state and encourages veterans to volunteer as mentors with these courts.