

REVENUE: Revenue statement issued

FISCAL: Minimal fiscal impact, no statement issued

Action: Do Pass as Amended and Be Printed Engrossed and Be Referred to the Committee on Finance and Revenue by prior reference

Vote: 4 - 0 - 0

Yeas: Monnes Anderson, Olsen, President Courtney, Boquist

Nays: 0

Exc.: 0

Prepared By: Cheyenne Ross, Administrator

Meeting Dates: 3/28, 4/11

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Exempts from taxation up to \$60,000 of assessed value of home or personal property of veterans with service-connected disability of 100 percent. Extends property tax exemptions to surviving spouses who remarry the first time at age 57 or older.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Offering greater benefit to those who have sacrificed
- Effect of amendment

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: Replaces alternative choice of “greater of” exemption amounts, with exemption of up to \$60,000. Permits otherwise eligible surviving spouses who remarry the first time at the age of 57 or older, to continue to claim exemptions.

BACKGROUND: Oregon currently offers a couple of property tax exemptions to qualifying disabled veterans at ORS 307.250. The first exemption is up to \$15,000 if the veteran is at least 40 percent disabled with gross earnings that don’t exceed a certain limit. This exemption may be claimed by the veteran’s surviving spouse so long as he or she does not remarry. The second exemption is up to \$18,000 if the veteran suffers from a service-connected disability or disabilities of at least 40%. This exemption may also be claimed by the veteran’s surviving spouse, so long as he or she remains unmarried, if the veteran received the exemption for at least a year prior to death, or died from service-connected injury or illness.

Senate Bill 808 A does two things: It creates a third, higher exemption of up to \$60,000 for veterans who suffer from a service-connected disability or disabilities of 100 percent (which may also be claimed by the veteran’s surviving spouse if it was received for a year prior to the veteran’s death, or if the veteran died from service-connected injury or illness); and it permits otherwise eligible surviving spouses who remarry for the first time at the age of 57 or older, to continue to claim exemptions at all three levels.