

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 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:	4/11, 4/18

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Creates suicide prevention program within Oregon Department of Veterans Affairs (ODVA) to coordinate public information campaign. Establishes accounting structure. Adds voluntary contribution check-off box on individual income tax return forms, and permits voluntary contribution at time of online vehicle registration renewal. Requires ODVA increase scope of service provision via alternative means, in addition to use of county veterans service officers. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Oregon’s relatively high suicide rate, especially among veterans, compared to other states
- Inclusion of suicide prevention in overall services and outreach to veterans
- Anticipated increase in need for services
- Saving lives at front end, through prevention, versus grave outcomes and costs on back end
- Value of community partners
- Oregon Department of Transportation’s idea to link to ODVA via “donate” button at time of online vehicle registration renewal

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: Creates suicide prevention program within Oregon Department of Veterans Affairs (ODVA) to coordinate public information campaign. Establishes accounting structure. Adds voluntary contribution check-off box on individual income tax return forms, and permits voluntary contribution at time of online vehicle registration renewal.

BACKGROUND: According to a report published in September 2010 by the Oregon Department of Human Services, Office of Disease Prevention and Epidemiology, Injury and Violence Prevention Program, there are more injury-related deaths in Oregon due to suicide than due to car crashes. The age-adjusted suicide rate among Oregonians in 2007 was 35 percent higher than the national average, and suicide rates have been increasing since 2000. At the time the report was published, approximately 27 percent of suicides occurred among veterans. The suicide rate among male veterans was 45.7 for every 100,000, compared to 27.4 for every 100,000, among males who were not veterans; and significantly higher suicide rates were identified among male veterans ages 18-24, 35-44 and 45-54 in particular, when compared to nonveteran males. Senate Bill 762A adds a suicide prevention program to the mix of outreach and other services administered by the Oregon Department of Veterans Affairs, funded by voluntary contributions.