

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: No fiscal impact

Action: Do Pass

Vote: 7 - 0 - 0

Yeas: Boone, Esquivel, Fagan, Huffman, Parrish, Witt, Matthews

Nays: 0

Exc.: 0

Prepared By: Elizabeth Edwards, Administrator

Meeting Dates: 2/7

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Authorizes Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs (ODVA) to define "honorable conditions" via rule. Declares emergency; effective upon passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Six types of discharge and possibility of misconstruing which could be considered "under honorable conditions"
- Importance of understanding benefits at time of discharge

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

BACKGROUND: The term "honorable conditions" is not currently defined in Oregon law as it pertains to the definition of veteran. The definition of "honorable conditions" impacts benefits veterans may receive based on their discharge status. The federal government uses "conditions other than dishonorable" as its standard. House Bill 2633 permits ODVA to develop a definition via its rulemaking process, which allows greater flexibility than the federal model when deciding who qualifies for benefits.