

PRELIMINARY STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**CARRIER:**

House Committee on Veterans and Emergency Preparedness

REVENUE: No revenue impact**FISCAL:** May have fiscal impact, statement not yet issued**SUBSEQUENT REFERRAL:** Joint Committee on Ways and Means**Action:****Vote:****Yeas:****Nays:****Exc.:****Prepared By:** Bryan Guiney, Administrator**Meeting Dates:** 2/26, 4/21

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Requires Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs (ODVA) to establish Oregon Incarcerated Veterans Outreach Program. Requires Oregon Treasury to create Oregon Incarcerated Veterans Outreach Program Fund.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Provisions of measure

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: Proposed [-3] Replaces original measure. Establishes The Task Force on Incarcerated Veterans. Requires task force to report to Legislative Assembly by September 15, 2016. Sunsets on December 31, 2016. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

BACKGROUND: In a 2013 study published in the *Justice Policy Journal*, 19.1 percent of Oregon Department of Corrections inmates were found to be military veterans. In the same year Oregon had the highest percentage of state prisoners with veteran status in the nation; the next closest state was Nevada with 11.3 percent of its inmate population being comprised of veterans. Currently neither ODOC nor ODVA has a comprehensive and/or coordinated veteran's services program for incarcerated service members.

House Bill 2838 would establish a fund through the State Treasury for the establishment of the Oregon Incarcerated Veterans Outreach Program. Moneys from this fund would be appropriated to the ODVA for the operation of the program. The purpose of this program is to conduct outreach and provide assistance to incarcerated veterans and spouses and dependents of incarcerated veterans. This bill also requires ODVA to report to the interim legislative committees on or before July 1, 2020, regarding the program.