

FISCAL IMPACT OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION

Measure: HB 2230

Seventy-Eighth Oregon Legislative Assembly – 2015 Regular Session
Legislative Fiscal Office

*Only Impacts on Original or Engrossed
Versions are Considered Official*

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Measure Description:

Requires Director of Oregon Health Authority to notify Director of Veterans' Affairs upon receipt of certain written information from member or veteran of uniformed service, if authorized to do so by member or veteran.

Government Unit(s) Affected:

Oregon Health Authority (OHA), Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs (ODVA)

Local Government Mandate:

This bill does not affect local governments' service levels or shared revenues sufficient to trigger Section 15, Article XI of the Oregon Constitution.

Analysis:

House Bill 2230 requires the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) to notify the Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs (ODVA) at least once a month with the names and addresses of uniform service members and veterans. OHA must obtain the uniform service member's or veteran's authorization to release this information. The bill declares an emergency and takes effect July 1, 2015. The fiscal impact of this bill is indeterminate at this time.

Oregon Health Authority (OHA)

Currently the Oregon Educators Benefit Board (OEBB) and the Public Employees Benefits Board (PEBB) do not collect the service status of members enrolling in their health benefit plans. OEBB estimates the cost of modifying the enrollment system to collect the information and to collect applicants' written authorizations required by this bill to be approximately \$177,000 Other Funds for the 2015-17 biennium. PEBB estimates the cost of modifying their enrollment system to be approximately \$190,000 Other Funds for the 2015-17 biennium.

Although OHA anticipates capturing the required veteran data as part of the new Medical Assistance Gross Income System (MAGI) slated for implementation at the end of the 2015 calendar year, at this time, OHA cannot determine the exact process changes that will need to be implemented. The bill directs OHA, in consultation with ODVA, to adopt rules to implement the provisions of this bill. Depending on those rules and associated process/system changes, OHA may be able to implement the bill with existing agency resources. However, if the system requirements and administrative workload exceed expectations, OHA may need to return to the Emergency Board or Legislative Assembly to seek additional direction or resources.

Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs (ODVA)

At present, ODVA has an existing outreach process in place and similar arrangements exist between ODVA and other state agencies (e.g. the Department of Corrections and the Bureau of Labor Industries). With additional information from OHA, the number of newly identified service members and veterans who can be contacted and directed by ODVA staff to a veteran service officer or a service provider will increase. If the workload exceeds currently budgeted volume, ODVA may need to establish one Public Service Representative 4 position (1.00 FTE) to handle the increased workload. ODVA estimates the cost of this to be approximately \$232,419 General Fund per biennium. If the intent of the bill is for ODVA to use this information to increase its outreach efforts, ODVA may need to return to the Emergency Board or Legislative Assembly to seek additional direction or resources.