

**Seventy-Eighth Oregon Legislative Assembly - 2015 Regular Session**  
**STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**  
**House Committee On Veterans and Emergency Preparedness**

**MEASURE: HB 2539 A**  
**CARRIER: Rep. Evans**

**Fiscal:** Fiscal impact issued

**Revenue:** No Revenue Impact

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**Action Date:** 03/03/15

**Action:** Do Pass As Amended And Be Printed Engrossed.

**Meeting Dates:** 02/24, 03/03

**Vote:**

Yeas: 6 - Boone, Evans, Huffman, Lively, Parrish, Piluso

Exc: 1 - Esquivel

**Prepared By:** Bryan Guiney, Committee Administrator

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

Requires Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs (ODVA) submit report to legislature on medical services used by female veterans by November 1, 2016. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Contracting services for report versus report produced by agency

**EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:**

Permits ODVA to contract for a statewide study, expands report to include mental health, and changes report due date.

**BACKGROUND:**

The Governor's Task Force on Veterans' Services Final Report (December 2008) found a significant number of female combat veterans' health care needs were not being met by the federal Veterans Affairs health care system. The report found that military sexual trauma (MST) and specific (non-coed) inpatient or residential mental health/post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) treatment facilities were limited in the Pacific Northwest.

During the 2009 Legislative Session, House Bill 2718 was passed forming the Task Force on Women Veterans' Health Care [sic] to study the healthcare needs of female veterans, including but not limited to mental health, inpatient treatment, appropriate care within state and federal systems, and identifying gaps in services key to successfully treating female veterans. The task force submitted their findings in October of 2010.

House Bill 2539-A directs the Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs (ODVA) to submit a comprehensive report to the legislature no later than November 1, 2016, detailing medical services available to women, findings on usage and barriers to access, and making recommendations for legislative changes to achieve better delivery of services.