

STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Veterans and Emergency Preparedness

Fiscal: No Fiscal Impact

Revenue: No Revenue Impact

Action Date: 03/31/15

Action: Do Pass.

Meeting Dates: 03/24, 03/31

Vote:

Yeas: 4 - Boquist, Monnes Anderson, Olsen, President Courtney

Prepared By: Cheyenne Ross, Committee Administrator

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Clarifies authority of Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs (ODVA) to act without bond as fiduciary for veterans' benefits and receive payment of social security and supplemental security income benefits on behalf of qualifying veterans and their dependents. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- ODVA's role as conservator
- Existing statutory authority is general; specific conservator functions are not detailed in statute

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

The authority of the Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs (ODVA) to act as conservator on behalf of veterans who are not able to manage their financial affairs is governed by ORS 406.050; however, two conservator functions are not specifically described, that of fiduciary, and that of representative payee. Senate Bill 251 specifies ODVA's functions as fiduciary and representative payee, in its role as conservator, in the state's authorizing statutes.