

FISCAL IMPACT OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION

Measure: SB 89 - A

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

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

Prepared by: Krista McDowell
Reviewed by: Michelle Deister
Date: 4/21/2015

Measure Description:

Directs Department of Veterans' Affairs to submit report to interim legislative committees, no later than July 1, 2016, regarding delivery of veterans' services.

Government Unit(s) Affected:

Department of Veterans' Affairs, Counties

Local Government Mandate:

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

Analysis:

The bill allows counties and The Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs (ODVA) to appoint volunteer veteran guides to provide support services and assistance to veterans, their families and survivors. The services would be under the direction of a County Veteran Service Officer or ODVA as appropriate. Volunteers would be fingerprinted, sign confidentiality documents, and may be reimbursed for expenses.

ODVA provides training for County Veteran Service Officers who are or will become certified to hold power of attorney and file claims; that training is currently supported by a General Fund appropriation to the agency. To the extent that additional training curricula would need to be developed and delivered for volunteers, an additional but as yet undetermined cost is assumed. Background checks, travel and per diem expenses are dependent upon the number of volunteer guides that would be appointed. The agency may require additional General Fund to accommodate these costs.

The noted uncertainty surrounding this measure's fiscal impact suggests that the agency may need to return to the Emergency Board if budgeted resources prove insufficient to cover the actual costs of this measure.