

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: No Revenue Impact

Action Date: 04/21/15

Action: Do Pass With Amendments. (Printed A-Eng.)

Meeting Dates: 04/21

Vote:

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

Prepared By: Cheyenne Ross, Committee Administrator

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Permits counties and Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs (ODVA) to appoint volunteers to provide support services and assistance to those ODVA serves. Describes duties and provides for oversight. Requires background check and protection of client confidentiality. Permits reimbursement for expenses and other incidentals. Permits ODVA to provide training. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Replacement for Senate Bill 638 due to narrow relating clause
- Importance of training, education and accountability
- Reason for coordinator rather than ombudsman
- Excellent and dedicated volunteers in veteran communities

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:

Replaces original measure.

BACKGROUND:

Many local communities in Oregon rely on volunteers who assist and advocate for veterans. This valuable volunteer service develops organically and differently from one locality to the next. Senate Bill 89-A provides a formal appointment for volunteers, the opportunity for them to receive training, some uniformity of responsibilities, and the potential for reimbursement of costs and incidentals.