

STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Veterans and Emergency Preparedness

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: No Revenue Impact

Action Date: 04/21/15

Action: Do Pass. Refer To Ways And Means.

Meeting Dates: 03/17, 04/21

Vote:

Yeas: 7 - Boone, Esquivel, Evans, Huffman, Lively, Parrish, Piluso

Prepared By: Bryan Guiney, Committee Administrator

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Directs Oregon Department of Veterans Affairs (ODVA), County Veterans Service Officers (CVSO), and Oregon Health Authority (OHA) to establish health care coverage program and provision of health care services to Republic of Korea veterans of the Vietnam War. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Number of Oregonians who fought for the Republic of Korea in the Vietnam War (≈40)

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

The Republic of Korea (ROK) contributed forces to fight alongside the United States during the Vietnam War. From 1964 to 1973 more than 300,000 South Koreans fought in South Vietnam. Currently, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs is authorized to provide medical services to beneficiaries of those nations allied with the U.S. in World War I and World War II (except any nation which was an enemy of the U.S. during World War II).

House Bill 2793 requires the state of Oregon to provide services similar to federal veteran's benefits, to naturalized citizens who served in the ROK armed forces during the Vietnam War.