

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 And Be Referred To Ways And Means By Prior Reference

Meeting Dates: 04/16, 04/21

Vote:

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

Prepared By: Bryan Guiney, Committee Administrator

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Establishes task force to study how to provide benefits for disabled veterans through preferred worker program. Requires recommendations by September 15, 2016. Sunsets December 31, 2016. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Oregon Preferred Worker Program (PWP) and worker benefit fund
- Fiscal impacts of statutory task forces

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

The Preferred Worker Program (PWP) is administered through the Worker's Compensation Division of the Department of Consumer and Business Services (DCBS). It encourages the re-employment of qualified Oregon workers who have permanent disabilities from on-the-job injuries, who are not able to return to their regular employment because of those injuries. The program is funded by worker and employer contributions to the Workers' Benefit Fund.

House Bill 3532 establishes an 11-member task force to collect and synthesize information about the potential inclusion of disabled veterans in the preferred worker program and make recommendations for future legislation to an interim committee of the Legislative Assembly related to business and labor no later than September 15, 2016.