

## STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

## House Committee On Veterans and Emergency Preparedness

**Fiscal:** Fiscal impact issued**Revenue:** Revenue impact issued**Action Date:** 02/09/16**Action:** Be Adopted With Amendments And Be Referred To Rules By Prior Reference. (Printed A-Eng.)**Meeting Dates:** 02/02, 02/09**Vote:**

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

**Prepared By:** Cheyenne Ross, Committee Administrator

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

Refers amendment of Article XV of Oregon constitution to voters, to require two percent of net proceeds from state lottery revenues be dedicated to benefit veterans beginning on or after July 1, 2017. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Need for additional resources to fund services for increasing needs of veterans over the long term; veteran population now spans five generations, while future generations continue to serve
- Investment in services that assist veterans attempting to access federal benefits bringing significant federal dollars into the state
- Slippery slope of dedicating lottery revenues toward a particular purpose
- Other populations and services in need of additional funds that do not have access to other resources or benefits
- Previous attempts to tap lottery revenues to benefit veterans
- Referring question to voters

**EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:**

Lowers percentage to benefit veterans from three to two percent. Removes reduction and phase-out over time. Removes language attempting to limit Legislature's ability to reduce percentage. Suggests specific services and programs that benefit veterans.

**BACKGROUND:**

The idea of dedicating some amount of Oregon State Lottery proceeds to benefit eligible resident veterans has been around for several years in a variety of forms, including proposals for veteran-specific lottery games and amendments to the state's constitution (most recently found in HB 2899 and HJR 22 in 2015, and HB 2086 and HJR 29 in 2013). Other states have taken similar approaches: Iowa dedicates a portion of its lottery proceeds for veterans; Washington, Kansas, Illinois and Texas, have all developed lottery games specifically to benefit veterans; and Maryland locates particular machines that benefit veterans, where veterans congregate. Still more state legislatures continue to consider the idea, such as New York, Missouri, Vermont and Indiana.

House Joint Resolution 202A refers to the voters, the question of whether to amend the constitution to dedicate two percent of state lottery proceeds to benefit Oregon veterans.