



Senate Veterans and Emergency Preparedness Committee | March 14, 2017

Senate Bill 81 Briefing:

Navigating Veterans Health Care

What the measure does: SB 81 directs the Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs (ODVA) to provide statewide expertise, advocacy, coordination and assistance to veterans and assist veterans in navigating federal, state and local health care and mental health care systems for the purpose of obtaining health care and mental health care.

Background: Oregon veterans face significant challenges and barriers to accessing health care and mental health care from the federal VA, the state and local community resources. Veterans face a number of obstacles, particularly working with the complexities of the health and mental health care systems in Federal VA Hospitals and Community Based Outpatient Clinics (CBOCs). Some assistance is provided through county veteran service officers (CVSO); however, they are primarily focused on providing access and advocacy for federal and state benefits for veterans and referrals to state or local resources. There is a need for statewide expertise, advocacy and support for veterans who need to access federal VA, state and local health and mental health care.

Solution: Directs the Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs (ODVA) to provide statewide expertise, advocacy, coordination and assistance to veterans and assist veterans in navigating federal, state and local health care and mental health care systems for the purpose of obtaining health care and mental health care.

Contact: Laurie Skillman | Senior Policy Advisor | laurie.skillman@state.or.us