

SB 129 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Veterans and Emergency Preparedness

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Sub-Referral To: Senate Committee On General Government and Accountability

Meeting Dates: 2/14, 2/21, 4/4

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Creates Task Force on Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder to study and recommend improvements in diagnosis and treatment of veterans in particular, and identify funding sources. Specifies composition. Requires report by September 15, 2018. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

FISCAL: May have fiscal impact, but no statement yet issued

REVENUE: May have revenue impact, but no statement yet issued

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Percentage of veterans in Oregon's total population
- Percentage of Oregon veterans with PTSD
- Whether need for task force or work group exists
- Absence of input from health care community

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

[-1 amendment] Replaces emergency clause with effective date 91st day after *sine die*.

[-2 amendment] Incorporates -1. Replaces measure. Requires ODVA Advisory Committee to advise the Legislature whether a task force should be formed to study issues related to PTSD diagnosis and treatment by February 1, 2018, and prioritize it for funding. Repeals December 31, 2018.

BACKGROUND:

Post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) can result from exposure to trauma - either experienced or witnessed - including exposure to combat or other dangers while serving in the military. More than 50 percent of the general population will experience trauma in their lives, and an average of about 7 to 8 percent will have PTSD at some point. Those who serve in the military may be exposed to combat and other dangers that could lead to PTSD.

There are more than 325,000 veterans living in Oregon, and 10-30 percent are estimated to have PTSD. More may express only partial symptoms. The percentage varies depending generally on where the veteran served, and specifically based on the veteran's individual experience: between 11-20% of those who served in Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom have PTSD in any given year; about 12% of those who served in the Gulf War (Desert Storm) in any given year; and about 30% of Vietnam Veterans have had PTSD at some point in their lives.

Senate Bill 129 establishes a task force to identify funding sources, and study and recommend improvements in PTSD diagnosis and treatment, for veterans in particular, by September 15, 2018.