

SB 80 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Veterans and Emergency Preparedness

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Meeting Dates: 5/4

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Recognizes the service of Native American veterans. Requires the Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs to assist with programs overseen by Tribes and U.S. government accreditation of tribal veterans representatives.

FISCAL: Indeterminate fiscal impact

REVENUE: No revenue impact

Senate Vote: Ayes 30; Excused 1

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Even in the face of sometimes difficult and complicated government-to-government relationships with the United States, Native Americans have served in the armed forces throughout history, and continue to serve, at higher rates than any other ethnic group. In addition, the highest concentration of active female service members are Native American. Within Oregon's borders, there are more than 100,000 members of nine federally recognized Tribes, and approximately 3800 tribal members are veterans: the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Indian Reservation, the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, the Burns-Paiute Tribe, the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians of Oregon, the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde, the Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Indians, the Confederated Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Tribes, the Klamath Tribe and the Coquille Tribe.

Senate Bill 80 recognizes the unique service of Native American veterans and directs the Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs to assist with the accreditation of tribal veterans representatives by the federal government, and any veterans programs overseen by the Tribes.