

FISCAL IMPACT OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION

79th Oregon Legislative Assembly – 2017 Regular Session
Legislative Fiscal Office

Measure: SB 81

*Only Impacts on Original or Engrossed
Versions are Considered Official*

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Date: 4/10/2017

Measure Description:

Directs Director of Veterans' Affairs to provide statewide expertise, advocacy, coordination and assistance to veterans to assist veterans in navigating federal, state and local health care and mental health care systems for purpose of obtaining health care and mental health care.

Government Unit(s) Affected:

Department of Veterans' Affairs

Analysis:

The bill directs the Director of Veterans' Affairs to provide assistance to veterans related to navigating federal, state, and local health/mental healthcare systems. The fiscal impact of this measure is indeterminate because the Legislative Fiscal Office (LFO) finds the programmatic language, and therefore budgetary scope, of the bill to be ambiguous. While the Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs (ODVA) already has broad statutory authority to aid veterans' organizations and counties serving veterans; this legislation could be interpreted as directing the agency to elevate resources beyond what is currently provided by the ODVA. However, the ODVA reports that the activities required by this legislation, as envisioned by the Department, should have no fiscal impact on the agency and the legislation will allow existing resources at the state and county level to focus on healthcare navigation efforts. ODVA has not requested, and does not anticipate, additional funding being required to support these healthcare navigation efforts.