

HB 2908 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Veterans and Emergency Preparedness

Action Date: 04/13/17

Action: Do pass and be referred to Ways and Means by prior reference

Vote: 7-0-1-0

Yeas: 7 - Esquivel, Evans, Lewis, Lively, Meek, Parrish, Post

Exc: 1 - Boone

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: No revenue impact

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WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Creates Veteran Volunteer Coordinator position within the Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs (ODVA). Specifies responsibilities and requires ODVA to report to the Legislative Assembly no later than September 15, 2020. Appropriates General Fund dollars. Declares an emergency; effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Value of volunteers
- General Fund appropriations versus Measure 96 dollars

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

The state of Oregon is home to many dedicated volunteers who work with veterans and advocate veterans' issues. Many of these volunteers are family members of veterans. There are also a number of nonprofit entities operating in Oregon, organized around serving veterans including: USO Northwest, the American Legion (AL), Disabled American Veterans (DAV), Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW), National Association for Black Veterans (NABVETS), Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA), Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of American (IAVA), and Student Veterans of America (SVA). One of the core functions of ODVA is outreach to veterans. Oregon veterans are a diverse population spanning four generations and five major wars. About fifty percent of Oregon's 300,000 veterans are age 65 or older and only about thirty percent presently access their available benefits. Individual volunteers and nonprofit organizations are valuable resources and partners with ODVA that connect Oregon's community of veterans.

House Bill 2908 creates the position of Veteran Volunteer Coordinator at ODVA to centralize communications and coordination with ODVA's volunteer partners.