

HB 2233 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Veterans and Emergency Preparedness

Action Date: 04/18/17
Action: Without recommendation as to passage and be referred to Ways and Means.
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:

Requires the Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs (ODVA) and County Veterans' Service Officers (CVSOs) to assist Korean Vietnam War veterans, and their spouses, dependents, or survivors, in applying for any health care related benefits to which they may be entitled. Directs ODVA, CVSOs and the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) to create health care coverage and services for Korean Vietnam War veterans determined to be ineligible for other state or federal programs. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Needs of Korean Vietnam War veterans
- Age of population

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

The Republic of Korea contributed forces to fight alongside the United States during the Vietnam War. More than 300,000 South Koreans fought in South Vietnam from 1964 to 1973. Currently, the U.S. Department of Veterans' Affairs is authorized to provide medical services to beneficiaries of nations allied with the U.S. in World War I and World War II, except any nation which was an enemy of the U.S. during World War II. There are approximately 45 Korean Vietnam War veterans who are citizens of the United States now residing in Oregon.

House Bill 2233 requires the ODVA and CVSOs to assist naturalized Korean Vietnam War veterans and their families residing in Oregon with applications for health benefits. The measure also requires the establishment of health benefits in cooperation with the OHA if the veteran is not otherwise covered.