

**SB 80 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**

**Carrier:** Rep. Lewis

**House Committee On Veterans and Emergency Preparedness**

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**Action Date:** 05/11/17  
**Action:** Do pass with amendments. (Printed A-Eng.)  
**Vote:** 6-0-2-0  
**Yeas:** 6 - Evans, Lewis, Lively, Meek, Parrish, Post  
**Exc:** 2 - Boone, Esquivel  
**Fiscal:** Fiscal impact issued  
**Revenue:** No revenue impact  
**Prepared By:** Bradley Volk, LPRO Analyst

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

Recognizes service of Native American veterans. Requires Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs (ODVA) to assist with programs overseen by Tribes and U.S. government accreditation of tribal veterans representatives. Directs ODVA to consult with tribes in advance regarding needs of Native American veterans.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Native American patriotism throughout history
- ODVA's working relationship with Native American tribes
- Unique cultures of Native American tribes

**EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:**

Directs ODVA to consult with tribes in advance regarding needs of Native American veterans.

**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 consisting of 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. Approximately 3,800 tribal members are veterans.

Senate Bill 80 A 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 with any veterans programs overseen by the Tribes.