

SB 1548 -1 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Health Care

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Meeting Dates: 2/7

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Establishes June as Oregon’s Post-Traumatic Stress Injury Awareness Month. Establishes June 27th as Oregon Post-Traumatic Stress Injury Awareness Day. Declares emergency, effective upon passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-1 Removes injury from the measure.

BACKGROUND:

Post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) is a mental health condition that may occur after an individual experiences or witnesses a traumatic event. Symptoms of PTSD may include persistent, frightening thoughts and memories of the event(s), experience sleep problems, feel detached or numb, or may be easily startled.

The National Institute of Mental Health reports that half of U.S. adults will experience at least one traumatic event in their lives, but most do not develop PTSD. It is estimated that 6.8 percent of U.S. adults and five percent of adolescents will have experienced PTSD at some point during their lives. The number of veterans with PTSD varies depending on when their service occurred according to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. 15 percent of Vietnam veterans, 12 percent of Gulf War veterans, and 11 to 20 percent of Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom veterans are estimated to have PTSD.

The measure establishes June 27th as Oregon Post-Traumatic Stress Injury Awareness Day and the month of June as Oregon’s Post-Traumatic Stress Injury Awareness Month.