

HB 4038 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Veterans and Emergency Preparedness

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Sub-Referral To: Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Meeting Dates: 2/6

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Requires the Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs (ODVA) to study the progress of the establishment of the Roseburg Oregon Veterans' Home and report to the Legislature the findings. Requires ODVA to study potential sites for state and tribal veterans' cemeteries. Directs ODVA to establish a program providing services to incarcerated veterans. Prohibits the Oregon Department of State Lands from the sale or destruction of a military medals and decorations. Takes effect 91 days following Sine Die.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

The State of Oregon currently as designated \$10M to the development of an additional Oregon Veterans' Home. House Bill 4038 directs the Department of Veterans' Affairs to study the efficacy of siting the next Oregon Veterans' Home in the city of Roseburg.

The State of Oregon has been identified by the US Department of Veterans' Affairs as a state that has an elevated priority for the development of a State Veterans' Cemetery. House Bill 4038 directs the Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs to study potential sites for a State Veterans' Cemetery in collaboration with tribal governments.

House Bill 2838 (2015) created the Task Force on Incarcerated Veterans to research, study, and make recommendations to the Legislature regarding outreach, information, and assistance to incarcerated veterans with respect to their earned federal and state veterans' benefits. House Bill 4038 provides a program within the Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs that caters to veterans regarding challenges associated with incarceration.

Under current Oregon Law (ORS Chapter 98, sections 98.302 to 98.436), unclaimed property can be sold or destroyed by the Department of State Lands after certain notices have been given. House Bill 4038 excludes military medals and decorations from items that would be sold or destroyed under this authority.