

**HB 4038 A BUDGET REPORT and MEASURE SUMMARY**

**Joint Committee On Ways and Means**

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**Department of Veterans' Affairs**

**2017-19**

PRELIMINARY

**Budget Summary\***

	2017-19 Legislatively Adopted Budget	2018 Committee Recommendation	Committee Change From 2017-19 Leg. Adopted	
			\$ Change	% Change
Lottery Funds	\$ -	\$ 136,531	\$ 136,531	100.0%
Total	\$ -	\$ 136,531	\$ 136,531	100.0%

**Position Summary**

Authorized Positions	0	1	1
Full-time Equivalent (FTE) Positions	0.00	0.54	0.54

\* Excludes Capital Construction Expenditures

**Summary of Revenue Changes**

House Bill 4038 increases Lottery Funds expenditure limitation, from the lottery moneys allocated from the Veterans’ Services Fund established under ORS 406.140, by \$136,531 in the Oregon Department of Veterans’ Affairs to establish a program to provide services to incarcerated veterans.

**Summary of Capital Construction Subcommittee Action**

House Bill 4038 includes several provisions related to services for veterans, impacting the Oregon Department of State Lands (DSL), the Oregon Department of Veterans’ Affairs (ODVA), and the Department of Corrections (DOC). First, the bill prohibits DSL from selling or destroying military medals and requires the Department to retain medals until a claim is filed by the rightful service member or by a descendant of a deceased service member. The bill authorizes the Department to deliver unclaimed military medals to certain custodians who agree to retain the military medal for the service member or a descendant of the service member.

The bill requires ODVA to study the progress of the establishment of the Roseburg Veterans’ Home and to report the findings to the Legislature no later than September 1, 2018. ODVA must also study potential sites for state and tribal veterans’ cemeteries and the feasibility of applying for a grant under the Veterans Cemetery Grants Program administered by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs.

Additionally, the bill requires ODVA to establish a program to provide services to incarcerated veterans. This program must do the following:

- 1) Conduct outreach to, and provide assistance for veterans during incarceration and post-release, and to the spouses and dependents of such veterans;
- 2) Provide assistance in applying for federal and state veterans' benefits they may be entitled to;
- 3) Provide assistance in applying for veterans' benefits and benefits available through other programs providing services and resources to incarcerated veterans and their families; and
- 4) Develop and distribute informational materials for incarcerated veterans regarding veteran's benefits and other benefit programs providing services and resources to incarcerated veterans.

The director of ODVA, in consultation with DOC, must appoint one or more veterans' service officers to carry out the requirements of the program.

The Subcommittee adopted amendments to provide Lottery Funds to ODVA for establishment of the incarcerated veterans' services program and to expand the definition of a disabled veteran for the purpose of receiving veterans' preference in public employment to include persons receiving service-connected disability compensation from the United States Department of Veterans Affairs.

#### Veterans' Services Programs

The Subcommittee approved increasing Lottery Funds expenditure limitation by \$136,531 to support ODVA's costs to establish the incarcerated veterans' services program in the 2017-19 biennium. ODVA anticipates the need for two permanent positions to implement and administer the program. One position will be dedicated to inmate intake; certifying adjustments to federal benefits while veterans are incarcerated; filing appeals for adjustments to veterans' discharge status; and coordinating placement for qualified veterans to mental health facilities, as necessary. The second position will focus on inmate release services to develop a release plan designed to help the individual reintegrate into the community; educate and assist veterans in claims management and filing/reinstating federal benefits; and liaise with veteran community service providers and county veteran service officers. ODVA currently has an existing position to provide services to incarcerated veterans as part of the program. ODVA anticipates the remaining workload to require a new full-time Program Analyst 2 position (0.54 FTE).

## DETAIL OF JOINT COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS ACTION

Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs  
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DESCRIPTION	GENERAL FUND	LOTTERY FUNDS	OTHER FUNDS		FEDERAL FUNDS		TOTAL ALL FUNDS	POS	FTE
			LIMITED	NONLIMITED	LIMITED	NONLIMITED			
<u>SUBCOMMITTEE ADJUSTMENTS</u>									
<b>SCR 002 - Veterans' Services Program</b>									
Personal Services	\$ -	\$ 94,953	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 94,953	1	0.54
Services and Supplies	\$ -	\$ 41,578	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 41,578		
<b>TOTAL SUBCOMMITTEE ADJUSTMENTS</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 136,531</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 136,531</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0.54</b>