

HB 4038 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Veterans and Emergency Preparedness

Action Date: 02/15/18

Action: Do pass with amendments
and be referred to Ways and Means by prior reference. (Printed A-Eng.)

Vote: 8-0-0-0

Yeas: 8 - Boone, Esquivel, Evans, Lewis, Lively, Meek, Parrish, Post

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: No revenue impact

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WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Requires the Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs (ODVA) to study and report to the legislature on the progress of establishing a Veterans' Home in Roseburg, Oregon by September 1, 2018. Requires ODVA to study potential sites for state and tribal veterans' cemeteries. Directs ODVA to establish reentry services for incarcerated veterans to include outreach, assistance reinstating veterans' benefits, providing informational materials, and consulting with the Department of Corrections to appoint veterans' service officers. Prohibits the sale or destruction of military medals and decorations by the Department of State Lands (DSL) as unclaimed property and creates a process for retention and disposition. Takes effect 91st day after *sine die*.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Transferring custody of military medals to museums

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

Includes the Oregon Military Museum as a potential custodian of military medals.

BACKGROUND:

House Bill 4038A addresses a number of issues of concern to veterans: the Roseburg Veterans' Home, cemeteries for veterans, incarcerated veterans, and the disposition of unclaimed military medals.

There are two established Veterans' Homes in Oregon, in The Dalles and Lebanon, and a third pending development in Roseburg, for which the state has designated \$10 million. House Bill 4038A directs the Department of Veterans' Affairs (ODVA) to study the efficacy of siting in Roseburg and report back to the legislature.

Oregon has been identified by the U.S. Department of Veterans' Affairs as having elevated priority for the development of a State Veterans' Cemetery. House Bill 4038A directs ODVA to study potential sites for a State Veterans' Cemetery in collaboration with tribal governments.

In 2015, a task force convened pursuant to House Bill 2838 to study the needs of incarcerated veterans and make recommendations to the legislature. Consistent with those recommendations, House Bill 4038A requires ODVA to provide reentry services that include assistance with reinstatement of the veterans' benefits and appointing veterans' service officers.

Unclaimed property in Oregon can be sold or destroyed by the Department of State Lands (DSL) upon proper notice. House Bill 4038A excludes military medals and decorations and provides for alternative disposition.