

HB 2203 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Veterans and Emergency Preparedness

Prepared By: Patrick Brennan, LPRO Analyst

Meeting Dates: 4/2

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Directs Department of Veterans' Affairs to study and make recommendations regarding improvements to operations of Department. Requires Department to submit report on findings by January 1, 2021.

PLEASE NOTE - THIS IS PLACEHOLDER LANGUAGE; PLEASE REFER TO "EFFECT OF AMENDMENT" SECTION

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

Directs the Criminal Justice Commission to develop and implement a program to provide funding to Oregon counties for establishment and support of veterans' courts. Specifies that counties that commit to providing local resources or funding may submit proposals to Commission, which may award grants on competitive basis. Authorizes Commission to solicit gifts, grants and donations for program, and may adopt rules to implement the program. Appropriates \$500,000 from General Fund to Commission for program.

BACKGROUND:

Military service, particularly combat experience, can have long-term adverse effects on veterans. Many returning veterans suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder, traumatic brain injury, or other types of mental health disorders or cognitive impairment. In addition, many veterans suffer from substance abuse issues. Veterans treatment courts utilize a hybrid integration of drug courts and mental health courts to serve military veterans and, in some cases, active duty personnel, by promoting sobriety, recovery, and stability through a coordinated and collaborative response system with traditional partners for drug courts and mental health courts, as well as the Department of Veterans' Affairs and other agencies and organizations that support veterans.