

## HB 2530 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

### Senate Committee On Veterans and Emergency Preparedness

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**Prepared By:** C. Ross, Counsel

**Meeting Dates:** 5/15, 5/22

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#### WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Requires certain notices to renters and homeowners regarding termination of tenancy to include information about assistance that may be available for eligible veterans. Specifies provision of contact information for county veterans' service officer or community action agency. Requires Department of Veterans' Affairs and Department of Housing and Community Services to submit a joint report to relevant legislative committees by December 1 every year, as specified, on housing programs for veterans.

#### ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Concern about potential unintended effect of setting expectation among veterans that financial assistance is available to avoid eviction or foreclosure
- Support for Oregon's "no wrong door" policy generally, which contemplates every contact between individuals and public entities as opportunity to connect veterans to ODVA; public agencies that link to ODVA on their websites and incorporate questions about veteran status into forms
- Roles/limitations of ODVA, community action agencies, and veterans' service officers: ODVA successfully prevents most foreclosures, but only through its in-house home loan program; veterans' service officers role is to connect eligible veterans to federal pension and disability benefits they may have earned; and foreclosure assistance through community action agencies is not currently funded

#### EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

*[-A7 amendment, 05.02.19]* Allows for referral to 2-1-1 information service as alternative to providing actual contact information for county veterans' service officer or community action agency.

*[-A8 amendment, 05.07.19]* Exempts notice of overdue payment sent to borrowers of loans secured by residential real estate.

#### BACKGROUND:

According to data presented to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), the State of Oregon had an estimated 13,953 persons experiencing homelessness in January 2017. Of those, 1,251 were veterans. Since that time, homelessness among military veterans has increased by nine percent, to 1,363, according to HUD statistics from November 2018.

Whenever tenancies terminate in eviction or foreclosure, certain notice and documents must be provided to renters or homeowners, to inform them about the process, what to do, and any corresponding deadlines. House Bill 2530-A requires such notice and documents to include information advising potential eligible veterans that assistance may be available and how to inquire.

*Unanimous out of House committee and off the House floor.*