

FISCAL IMPACT OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION

80th Oregon Legislative Assembly – 2019 Regular Session
Legislative Fiscal Office

Measure: HB 2195 - A

*Only Impacts on Original or Engrossed
Versions are Considered Official*

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Measure Description:

Dedicates portion of State Capitol State Park to Vietnam War memorial.

Government Unit(s) Affected:

Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs (ODVA), Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD)

Summary of Fiscal Impact:

Costs related to the measure is indeterminate, at this time - See analysis.

Analysis:

HB 2195 dedicates the southwest corner of the Oregon Capitol State Park for a Vietnam War memorial. The bill establishes the 10-member Vietnam War Memorial Task Force charged with seeking input from Vietnam War veterans and approving the final design from concepts submitted to the task force by an unspecified nonprofit charitable corporation in Oregon committed to establishing a Vietnam War memorial in the Oregon Capitol State Park. In addition, the task force is charged with applying for grants from the Veterans and War Memorial Grant Program administered by the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD). Members of the task force serve as volunteers and are not entitled to compensation or reimbursement. The Department of Veterans' Affairs (ODVA) is required to provide staffing support for the task force. The bill contains an emergency clause and takes effect on passage. The bill does not contain a sunset date for the task force.

The fiscal impact of this bill on OPRD and ODVA is indeterminate depending on the full cost of the design, fabrication, and installation of the memorial to be determined by the task force. In addition, administrative rules governing memorials within the Oregon Capitol State Park includes the stipulation that the applicant for a memorial must fully bear all expenses for the design, fabrication, and installation of an Oregon Capitol State Park monument. Yet, the bill does not specify the party responsible for applying for the memorial. Furthermore, the bill directs the task force to apply for grants from the Veterans and War Memorial Grant Program. However, existing administrative rules require that only local, regional, or tribal governments are eligible for awards from the Veterans and War Memorial Grant program.

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD)

In addition to the unknown costs and uncertain funding source discussed above, OPRD reports that the proposed location of the memorial is near the Fuchsia Bed, a historic landscape bed registered on the National Historic Landscape Plan. If placement of the proposed memorial requires mitigation efforts to protect the historic bed (e.g. redesign of the bed or surrounding areas, tree removal, re-routing or repair of irrigation lines, and altered concrete work), OPRD estimates the cost of a contractor to complete this work to be approximately \$50,000.

Department of Veterans' Affairs (ODVA)

The bill requires ODVA to provide staffing support to the task force and to maintain the finished memorial. Existing administrative rules governing memorials within Oregon Capitol State Park requires an amount equal to 15% of the project replacement value to be deposited in the Recognition and Honorary Feature Maintenance Trust Fund for maintenance and repair. Because the bill directs ODVA to maintain the finished memorial, it is assumed that ODVA will be responsible for covering this amount. The full cost of the design, fabrication, and

installation of the proposed memorial cannot be quantified until the task force convenes and approves the design selection. However, as a point of reference, the World War II Memorial, finished in 2014, located in the northwest corner of the Oregon Capitol State Park, cost approximately \$1.22 million to complete. Assuming the Vietnam War memorial proposed by the task force will have a comparable price tag, as the bill is written, ODVA will need approximately \$180,000 General Fund to meet its obligation to maintain the finished memorial.