

## HB 2203 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

### House Committee On Veterans and Emergency Preparedness

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**Action Date:** 04/02/19

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

**Vote:** 7-0-1-0

**Yeas:** 7 - Evans, Findley, Lewis, Meek, Neron, Wallan, Wilde

**Exc:** 1 - Zika

**Fiscal:** Fiscal impact issued

**Revenue:** No revenue impact

**Prepared By:** Patrick Brennan, LPRO Analyst

**Meeting Dates:** 4/2

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#### WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Directs the Criminal Justice Commission to develop and implement a program to provide funding to Oregon counties for establishment and support of county 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 allows adoption of rules to implement the program. Appropriates \$500,000 from General Fund to Commission for program beginning July 1, 2019.

#### ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Services provided by county veterans' courts
- Helping veterans rehabilitate rather than sending them to jail
- Impact of physical and mental trauma on veterans

#### EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

Replaces original measure.

#### 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.