

HB 2200 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Veterans and Emergency Preparedness

Action Date: 04/04/19

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

Vote: 8-0-0-0

Yeas: 8 - Evans, Findley, Lewis, Meek, Neron, Wallan, Wilde, Zika

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: No revenue impact

Prepared By: Patrick Brennan, LPRO Analyst

Meeting Dates: 4/4

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Directs Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs to develop and administer revolving loan program to provide loans to individuals who have pending claims with the federal Department of Veterans Affairs. Requires Department to enter into agreements with county veterans' service officers to receive and review applications for loans. Outlines criteria under which loans may be granted for reimbursement for medical care, educational benefits, disability benefits, or aid and attendance or household benefits. Limits loans to \$5,000 or less, prohibits charging interest for loans, and requires payment by date certain. Establishes the Veterans' Loan Fund within the State Treasury and continuously appropriates moneys in Fund to Department for revolving loan program. Allocates \$500,000 from Veterans' Services Fund to Veterans' Loan Fund.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Product of work group
- Financial needs of veterans

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

Replaces original measure.

BACKGROUND:

Many veterans experience financial hardship related to previous deployments, physical or mental health issues, employment transition from military service to the private sector, or other issues. House Bill 2200-A creates a revolving loan fund to allow the Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs to assist veterans with temporary monetary shortages of up to \$5,000. The measure creates a Veterans' Loan Fund and allocates \$500,000 to the Fund for purposes of making such loans.