

HB 2202 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Veterans and Emergency Preparedness

Action Date: 04/09/19

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

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Meeting Dates: 4/9

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Directs Bureau of Labor and Industries to develop and administer outreach program to former members of Oregon National Guard and Reserve to inform them of careers in the trades and to connect them to apprenticeship opportunities. Authorizes Bureau to issue grants to trade unions and trade associations for outreach, and with state agencies to identify individuals for outreach purposes. Allocates \$250,000 from Veterans' Services Fund for program. Establishes operative date of January 1, 2021.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Jobs in the trades are a good fit for many veterans
- Role of state agencies in identifying veterans for programs
- Use of G.I. Bill benefits to augment pay as apprentices

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

Replaces original measure.

BACKGROUND:

According to the Oregon Employment Department, the unemployment rate for veterans in Oregon in 2017 was 4.3 percent, slightly higher than the overall state average of 4.1 percent. About 152,000 Oregon veterans were in the labor force in 2017; of these, about 123,000 were employed full-time, and another 22,000 were employed part-time. Veterans made up approximately 7.2 percent of the unemployed population. During the period between 1997 and 2017, veterans have represented between 6.9 percent and 14.6 percent of the state's overall unemployed population.