

HB 2856 -1 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Veterans and Emergency Management

Prepared By: Cassie Passon, Counsel

Meeting Dates: 3/9, 3/16, 3/23, 4/8, 4/13

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Directs Department of Veterans' Affairs to study and make recommendations regarding improvements to operations of department and submit report on its findings to Legislative Assembly by January 1, 2023.

REVENUE: Has minimal revenue impact

FISCAL: Has fiscal impact

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- "Gut and stuff" amendment to add to statutory definition of veteran
- "One day" requirement
- Title 32 deployments
- Written explanation of why veteran was not interviewed
- Inclusion of National Guard in "veteran" definition
- Costs involved with expanding definition of "veteran"
- Service connected disabilities
- Veterans Work Group
- DD 215 documentation
- Benefit that come from state of Oregon
- Enforcement of Veterans' Preference
- Form letters in Section 2
- Covering people who should have already been considered "veterans"
- Number of veterans in Oregon

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-1 Replaces the measure. Requires veteran seeking preference in civil service hiring to provide evidence of eligibility for veterans' preference at the time of application. Adds federal form DD 214 and 215, official records of entitlements from the United States Department of Veterans Affairs, or any other documentation that demonstrates preference eligibility as evidence of eligibility. Requires public employer who does not interview veteran to provide veteran with written explanation of reasons interview was not granted. Expands definition of honorable conditions to include a character of service recognized as honorable by the United States Department of Defense, or a character of service that is recognized by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs as honorable for purposes of the department. Modifies definition of veteran to include people who served on orders issued under Title 32 of the United States Code, outside of continental United States, on domestic deployment for non-training purposes, or served under honorable conditions as a member of a reserve component.

BACKGROUND:

The Oregon Department of Veterans Affairs (ODVA) provides a wide variety of services to veterans. ODVA offers housing assistance in many forms such as home loans, skilled nursing homes, and assistance to veterans who are experiencing homeless. There are also many educational, health care related, transportation, employment, and recreation programs and benefits that ODVA offers to Veterans.

House Bill 2856 directs the Oregon Department of Veterans Affairs (ODVA) to study operational improvements and make a report with recommendations to the Legislative Assembly.