

SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

HB 2139

Relating to Rural Veterans Healthcare Transportation Grant Program

To: Ways and Means Full Committee
From: Transportation and Economic Development Subcommittee
Carrier: Representative Gomberg

HB 2139 establishes in statute the Rural Veterans Healthcare Transportation Grant Program, which was previously created in the 2019-21 budget of the Department of Veterans' Affairs. The program assists with transport of rural veterans to receive health care, allows grants for transportation regardless of whether care being received is covered by any federal benefit plan and deems federally recognized Indian tribes eligible to receive grants.

A one-time transfer of \$650,000 Lottery Funds to the Oregon Department of Transportation to administer the program is included in HB 5036, the budget bill for the Department of Veterans' Affairs.

The Transportation and Economic Development Subcommittee recommends HB 2139 be reported out do pass.