

HB 2140 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY
House Committee On Veterans and Emergency Management

Carrier: Rep. Wright

Action Date: 03/02/21
Action: Do Pass.
Vote: 6-0-0-0
Yeas: 6 - Evans, Grayber, Lewis, Meek, Wallan, Wright
Fiscal: No fiscal impact
Revenue: No revenue impact
Prepared By: Cassie Passon, Counsel
Meeting Dates: 1/26, 2/23, 3/2

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Expands Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs (ODVA) home loan program by reinstating home improvements and refinancing as permissible uses of loan, along with authorizing subordinate loans under certain circumstances.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Housekeeping matters
- Explicit statutory authority for certain lending options
- Veterans' work group

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Since 1945, Oregon has been one of only five states in the nation to offer a state home loan to veterans, which is distinct from the federal VA Home Loan Guaranty, administered by the Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs (ODVA). The ODVA home loan program has lent Oregonians approximately \$8 billion in low-interest loans to more than 334,000 veterans. ODVA conducted a comprehensive review of statutes governing home and farm loans to veterans in 2019, and requested legislative refinement of its authority consistent with current practices.

House Bill 2140 reinstates language that was removed in 2019 to allow loans for home improvements and refinancing, and authorizes ODVA to make subordinate loans if certain criteria are met.