

HB 4066 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Veterans and Emergency Preparedness

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Meeting Dates: 2/24, 2/24

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Specifies that public employers may require civil service position applicants to provide evidence of eligibility for veterans' preference in public employment at time of application. Requires public employers that do not interview applicants who are veterans to provide written reasons to veteran applicants for that decision. Repeals the sunset on the Veteran Educational Bridge Grant Program. Specifies that members of Oregon National Guard do not need to accept available federal aid in order to be eligible for assistance through Oregon Promise program. Designates U.S. Highway 30 as Oregon Veterans Memorial Highway and directs Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) to seek approval from federal entities to display military service seals on road markers. Takes effect 91st day following adjournment sine die.

Fiscal Statement Issued - the measure has a minimal fiscal impact. Revenue Statement Issued - the measure has no revenue impact.

House Floor Vote: Passed. Ayes, 51; Excused, 4--Boshart Davis, Nelson, Prusak, Reschke; Excused for Business of the House, 5--Bonham, Breese-Iverson, Holvey, Owens, Speaker Rayfield

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Public employers at both federal and state levels are required to extend a preference to veterans and disabled veterans in both hiring and promotion. In Oregon, public employers must also interview candidates who are veterans, and veterans receive five points at each stage of the hiring process, while disabled veterans receive 10 points. House Bill 4066 A specifies that public employers may require applicants who claim eligibility for a preference to provide evidence of their veteran status at the time they apply for civil service positions. Conversely, public employers choosing not to interview an applicant who is a veteran must provide each veteran applicant with a written explanation for that decision.

House Bill 2201 (2019) established the Veteran Educational Bridge Grant Program, administered by the Oregon Department of Veteran's Affairs (ODVA), to assist veterans with completion of educational programs that may have been interrupted or impinged by service requirements. Grants of up to \$5,000 are available to eligible veterans to reduce the cost of completing higher education coursework. The grant program was originally scheduled to sunset in January 2022, but was extended by legislation enacted in 2021. House Bill 4066 A eliminates the sunset altogether.

The Oregon Promise Grant program was established to help cover tuition costs at any Oregon community college for recent high school graduates or persons who recently completed their GED who met grade or test score requirements. House Bill 4066 A specifies that members of the Oregon National Guard are not required to accept federal assistance available to them as a precondition to qualify for Oregon Promise grants.

Finally, House Bill 4066 A designates U.S. Highway 30, from its intersection at Astoria with U.S. Highway 101 to the Idaho border, as the "Oregon Veterans Memorial Highway." The measure directs the Oregon Department of

This summary has not been adopted or officially endorsed by action of the committee.

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Transportation (ODOT) to seek approval to display military service seals for each branch of the U.S. Military on corresponding road markers.

PRELIMINARY