

HB 4095 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Health Care

Action Date: 02/14/22

Action: Do pass with amendments and be referred to Ways and Means by prior reference.
(Printed A-Eng.)

Vote: 10-0-0-0

Yeas: 10 - Alonso Leon, Campos, Dexter, Hayden, Moore-Green, Noble, Prusak, Salinas, Schouten, Weber

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: No revenue impact

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Meeting Dates: 2/4, 2/14

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Establishes Veterans Dental Program (Program) in Oregon Health Authority to provide oral health care to eligible veterans residing in Oregon beginning January 1, 2023. Specifies that services covered by Program shall be the same as those covered by the state medical assistance program. Specifies eligibility requirements. Directs Department of Veterans' Affairs to develop, by rule, criteria for granting waiver of eligibility requirement that veteran be discharged or released under honorable conditions. Directs county or tribal veterans' service officer to create criteria to decide whether to grant waiver on individual basis. Takes effect on 91st day following adjournment sine die.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Prevalence of lack of dental coverage for low-income veterans
- Importance of access to dental care

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

Changes responsibility for waiver decision from Department of Veterans' Affairs to county or tribal veterans' service officer.

BACKGROUND:

The United States Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) offers dental care benefits for some veterans with eligibility based on military service history and current health and living situation. Veterans not eligible for VA dental care benefits may be able to buy dental insurance at a reduced cost through the VA Dental Insurance Program (VADIP). The Oregon Health Plan, the state's Medicaid program, provides some dental coverage for low-income Oregonians, including cleaning, exams, sealants, fillings, and dentures.

House Bill 4095 A establishes the Veterans Dental Program in the Oregon Health Authority to provide oral health coverage to eligible veterans residing in Oregon beginning January 1, 2023.