

HB 4082 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Veterans and Emergency Preparedness

Action Date: 02/24/22

Action: Do pass the A-Eng bill. Requesting referral to Ways and Means.

Vote: 4-1-0-0

Yeas: 4 - Armitage, Linthicum, Manning Jr, Patterson

Nays: 1 - Thomsen

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: No revenue impact

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Meeting Dates: 2/22, 2/22, 2/24

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Directs county governing boards to designate veterans' remains coordinators to identify unclaimed human remains located within the county, establish eligibility for interment, and pursue interment at a national cemetery. Outlines: information that veterans' remains coordinators must provide to county veterans' service officers; process for transferring remains, identity, and eligibility information; responsibilities of county veterans' service officers in process; and responsibility of entities that may be in possession of remains of indigent persons.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Dignified disposition of veterans' remains
- Veterans' remains coordinator requirements
- Handling and disposition of unclaimed remains of veterans in Oregon and across the country

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

There are instances, in Oregon and across the country, when deceased veterans' remains are not claimed, leaving them unburied or uninterred. The Department of Veterans Affairs Office of Inspector General reported that, in 2018, the VA estimated the remains of between 11,500 and 52,600 veterans may be unclaimed at funeral homes nationwide.

House Bill 4082 A directs counties to designate one or more "veterans' remains coordinators" to work in a volunteer capacity to identify the unclaimed remains of deceased veterans located within the county, establish whether they are eligible for interment in a national cemetery, and arrange for same.