

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Fiscal statement issued

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Action:	Do Pass
Vote:	8 - 0 - 0
Yeas:	Boone, Esquivel, Freeman, Komp, Matthews, Riley, Weidner, Cowan
Nays:	0
Exc.:	0
Prepared By:	David Molina, Administrator
Meeting Dates:	4/9, 4/14, 4/16

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:** Defines veteran for purposes of section 3, Article XI-A of Oregon Constitution. Takes effect only if amendment to Oregon Constitution by House Joint Resolution 7 (2009) changing eligibility requirements for loan from Oregon War Veterans' Fund is approved by people at next general election. Takes effect on January 1, 2011, pending voter approval of House Joint Resolution 7.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Companion bill to House Joint Resolution 7 in order to tie the definition of veteran in statute to language in the constitutional amendment stating the eligibility for the loan would include a veteran (ORS 408.225)
- Similar legislation as Senate Bill 96 which governor-signed into law
- Legislative Counsel request

**EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:** No amendment.

**BACKGROUND:** House Bill 3470 defines veteran as used in section 3, Article XI-A of the Oregon Constitution. It defines a veteran as a person who:

- Served on active duty with the U.S. Armed Forces
- For more than 90 consecutive days before January 31, 1955 and was discharged or released from active duty under honorable conditions
- For more than 178 consecutive days after January 31, 1955 and was discharged or released from active duty under honorable conditions
- For 178 days or less and discharged from active duty under honorable conditions and has a rating from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)
- For at least one day in a combat zone and was discharged from active duty under honorable conditions
- Received a combat, expeditionary or campaign ribbon or medal for service and was discharged under honorable conditions
- Is receiving a nonservice-connected pension from the VA

Proponents of the measure, and of Senate Bill 96, assert an additional 264,000 veterans could potentially become eligible for the Oregon Veterans Home Loan program. The Oregon Department of Veterans Affairs anticipates making an additional \$7.5 million in loans to newly eligible veterans in the 2009-2011 biennium and \$30 million new loans for the 2011-2013 biennium.

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