

HB 2551 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Veterans and Emergency Preparedness

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Sub-Referral To: Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Meeting Dates: 2/12

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Directs the Department of Veterans' Affairs to develop and implement one or more pilot programs statewide to provide training, job placement services, financial assistance, technical support, and business creation assistance to veterans in construction and construction materials industries. Requires Department to report to the Legislative Assembly regarding pilot program status by September 15, 2020. Sunsets pilot programs on December 31, 2021. Declares emergency, takes effect July 1, 2019.

NOTE - Measure has subsequent referral to Committee on Ways and Means

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

According to the Oregon Employment Department, the unemployment rate for veterans in Oregon in 2017 was 4.3 percent, slightly higher than the overall state average of 4.1 percent. About 152,000 Oregon veterans were in the labor force in 2017; of these, about 123,000 were employed full-time, and another 22,000 were employed part-time. Veterans made up approximately 7.2 percent of the unemployed population. During the period between 1997 and 2017, veterans have represented between 6.9 percent and 14.6 percent of the state's overall unemployed population.