



House Veterans and Emergency Preparedness Committee

Senate Bill 37

Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs Testimony | April 16, 2019

Laurie Skillman
ODVA Senior Policy Advisor

Summary

Senate Bill 37 amends the statutes relating to the Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs (ODVA) veterans' homes (ORS 408.360 to 408.395). The bill is a housekeeping bill that makes technical amendments to the statutes.

ODVA did a comprehensive review of these statutes and determined that many were outdated and some provisions were inconsistent between the homes, including contracting requirements, application of statutes for long term care facilities to the veterans' homes and admission requirements.

Background

As background, there are two existing "Oregon Veterans' Homes": The Oregon Veterans' Home in The Dalles and the Edward C. Allworth Veterans' Home in Lebanon. ORS 408.385 provides for a third home to be located in Roseburg and, if necessary, a fourth veterans' home at an undetermined location.

The references in statute to the different homes are confusing. For example, the Edward C. Allworth Veterans' Home in Lebanon is referred to as "chapter 591, Oregon Laws 1995" in one provision and, in a different section, "the second veterans' home."

Another problem is that ORS 408.380 states that the second veterans' home (Lebanon) is subject to state and federal laws and regulations for long term care facilities, but is silent on the other homes. Finally, admission requirements for the homes are inconsistent.

Solutions in SB 37

SB 37 amends the statutes in ORS 408.360 to 408.395 to accomplish the following:

- Create a definition for each veterans' home, and define all as the "Oregon Veterans' Homes"
- Update language in ORS 408.360 to 408.395 to conform to the new definitions
- Amend ORS 408.380 to state that the all Oregon Veterans' Homes are subject to state and federal laws and regulations for long term care facilities.
- Clarify that contracting requirements for operations and management of Oregon Veterans' Homes apply to each Oregon Veterans' Home under ORS 408.375.
- Under ORS 408.375, clarify and make consistent admission requirements apply to all Oregon Veterans' Homes, and that a Home may only admit "residents" who are veterans (defined by rule), the spouses or surviving spouses of veterans, and a parent whose child died while serving the Armed Forces of the United States (Gold Star parents). Admittance for spouses, parents and others is conditioned on federal requirements for number of veterans in relations to non-veterans.