

HB 2904 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Veterans and Emergency Management

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Sub-Referral To: Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Meeting Dates: 2/2

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Establishes program within Oregon Department of Veterans Affairs (ODVA) to purchase and manage residential properties for benefit of homeless veterans. Directors department to administer program. Authorizes department to enter into agreements with private entities to administer program.

Subsequent referral to the Joint Committee on Ways and Means

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

The Oregon Department of Veterans Affairs (ODVA) provides a wide variety of housing assistance for veterans including providing assistance to veterans who are experiencing homeless or on the brink of homelessness. According to the ODVA, on any given night there are approximately 1,300 homeless veterans in Oregon, which makes up more than ten percent of Oregon's homeless population. Currently, the ODVA provides emergency financial assistance, drop in centers for homeless veterans, programs to assist homeless veterans returning to employment, providing assistance to accessing federal housing vouchers, and Stand Downs where veterans can access services and obtain temporary food and shelter.

House Bill 2904 directs the ODVA to create and administer a program where the department purchases residential properties to rent to, or otherwise provide housing to veterans experiencing or on the brink of experiencing homelessness. The bill also allows the ODVA to enter in to agreements with private entities to administer the program.