

HB 2140 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Veterans and Emergency Preparedness

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Meeting Dates: 4/6, 4/13

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Expands the Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs' (ODVA) home loan program to include improvement or refinancing of a farm or home as acceptable uses of loan. Authorizes ODVA to make certain subordinate loans with specific requirements.

House Vote: Ayes, 56; Absent, 1--Alonso Leon; Excused, 3--Clem, Hernandez, Wallan

Determined to have no fiscal and no revenue impact.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Oregon Department of Veterans Affairs' home loan program implicit authority
- Equity in program administration to ensure accessibility to all Veterans

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Since 1945, through the Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs (ODVA), approximately \$8 billion in low-interest home loans has been available to more than 334, 000 veteran borrowers. Oregon is one of only five states offering a veterans' home loan program, separate from the federal Veterans Administration Home Loan Guaranty. In 2018, ODVA administered a comprehensive review of statutes governing home and farm loans to veterans. Senate Bill 36 (2019), passed in response to the comprehensive statutory review, refined ODVA's authority to administer home loans to veterans, modernized language usage, and made provisions consistent with current practice.

House Bill 2140, through reinstatement of language removed in 2019, permits loans from home improvements and refinancing, and authorizes ODVA to make subordinate loans with certain requirements.