

## HB 2239 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

### House Committee On Judiciary

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**Action Date:** 04/13/21

**Action:** Do pass with amendments and be referred to Ways and Means. (Printed A-Eng.)

**Vote:** 10-0-0-0

**Yeas:** 10 - Bynum, Dexter, Helm, Kropf, Lewis, Morgan, Noble, Power, Wallan, Wilde

**Fiscal:** Fiscal impact issued

**Revenue:** No revenue impact

**Prepared By:** Gillian Fischer, Counsel

**Meeting Dates:** 2/4, 4/13

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#### WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Directs the Oregon Judicial Department to establish a centralized veterans treatment court that counties may opt into beginning July 1, 2023. Requires the department to report to the interim committees of the Legislative Assembly related to the judiciary regarding any legal or statutory authorizations necessary for, and obstacles to establishing the centralized veterans treatment court as described no later than October 1, 2021 and report on the costs related to establishing the centralized veterans treatment court as described, no later than October 1, 2022. Declares an emergency effective on passage.

#### ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Counties with existing veterans' courts
- Benefits of local service providers for veterans in the criminal justice system
- Existing barriers to establishment of veterans' courts in every county
- Staggered implementation of measure

#### EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

Replaces the measure.

#### BACKGROUND:

Oregon revised statute 3.450 governs the implementation of specialty court programs that provide individualized treatment for substance abuse issues. The program requires an individual to report regularly and provide progress updates to the court. The program provides a local drug court team, consisting of the court, agency personnel, and treatment and service providers who assist in supervising program participants. Some jurisdictions have expanded treatment courts to provide specialty programs tailored towards veterans who have been charged with a crime. These programs may provide access to alternative sentencing opportunities to veterans with substance abuse issues or mental health needs and demonstrate a nexus between their military service and criminal charges.

House Bill 2239 A establishes a centralized veterans treatment court to provide access to eligible veterans in counties without an existing veterans court.