

## HB 4095 -1 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

### House Committee On Health Care

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**Prepared By:** Brian Nieuburt, LPRO Analyst

**Sub-Referral To:** Joint Committee On Ways and Means

**Meeting Dates:** 2/4, 2/14

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#### WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Establishes Veterans Dental Program (Program) in Oregon Health Authority to provide oral health care to eligible veterans residing in Oregon beginning January 1, 2023. Specifies that services covered by Program shall be the same as those covered by the state medical assistance program. Specifies eligibility requirements. Directs Department of Veterans' Affairs to create criteria to grant waiver to eligibility requirement that veteran be discharged or released under honorable conditions when discharge or release is result of discriminatory policies or practices. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

*REVENUE: May have revenue impact, but no statement yet issued.*

*FISCAL: May have fiscal impact, but no statement yet issued.*

#### ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Prevalence of lack of dental coverage for low income veterans
- Importance of access to dental care

#### EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-1 Changes responsibility for waiver decision from Department of Veterans' Affairs to county or tribal veterans' service officer.

#### BACKGROUND:

The United States Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) offers dental care benefits for some veterans; eligibility is based on military service history and current health and living situation. Veterans not eligible for VA dental care benefits may be able to buy dental insurance at a reduced cost through the VA Dental Insurance Program (VADIP).

House Bill 4095 establishes the Veterans Dental Program in the Oregon Health Authority to provide oral health care to eligible veterans residing in Oregon beginning January 1, 2023.