

## FISCAL IMPACT OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION

81st Oregon Legislative Assembly – 2022 Regular Session  
Legislative Fiscal Office

Measure: HB 4082 - A

*Only Impacts on Original or Engrossed  
Versions are Considered Official*

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Date: February 10, 2022

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### **Measure Description:**

Directs county governing body of each county to designate person to ensure interment of unclaimed cremated or reduced remains of veteran or spouse, dependent or survivor of veteran.

### **Government Unit(s) Affected:**

Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs (ODVA), Counties, Oregon Judicial Department (OJD), Oregon Mortuary and Cemetery Board (OMCB), Oregon Health Authority (OHA)

### **Summary of Fiscal Impact:**

Costs related to the measure are indeterminate at this time - See explanatory analysis.

### **Analysis:**

House Bill 4082 A-engrossed replaces the introduced version. The measure directs the county governing body of each county to designate one or more volunteer veterans' remains coordinators to identify unclaimed human remains located in the county in consultation with the county veterans' service officer, the United States Department of Veterans Affairs, and other entities. The measure requires a cemetery association, cemetery authority, alternative disposition facility operator, licensed funeral service practitioner or other entity in possession of unclaimed cremated or reduced remains of veteran or spouse, dependent or survivor of veteran to release cremated or reduced remains and associated veteran status information upon request to veterans' remains coordinator. A cemetery association, cemetery authority, alternative disposition facility operator, licensed funeral service practitioner or other entity in possession of unclaimed cremated or reduced remains of veteran or spouse, dependent or survivor of veteran must notify the county veterans' service officer under certain circumstances. A county veterans' service officer must report information about the veteran or spouse, dependent or survivor of veteran to the United States Department of Veterans Affairs. The measure requires a county veterans' service officer to establish and maintain list of reported information and to make information available upon request to veterans' remains coordinator. The measure takes effect on January 1, 2023.

### **Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs**

The measure requires the Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs (ODVA) to verify the internment benefits of eligible decedents. ODVA does not have a database for spouses, dependents or survivors of veterans, which would prevent ODVA from verifying the relationship to a veteran for eligibility purposes. Consequently, ODVA will need to develop and administer such a database, the cost of which is presently unknown. For that reason, the fiscal impact to ODVA is indeterminate. ODVA may need to request additional resources to develop this database, which it could request as a policy option package in its 2023-25 budget request.

### **Counties**

The measure requires county veterans' service officers to designate at least one volunteer veterans' remains coordinator to identify unclaimed human remains located in the county, information about the veteran or spouse, dependent or survivor of veteran to the United States Department of Veterans Affairs. The measure requires a county veterans' service officer to establish and maintain list of reported information, and to make information available upon request to veterans' remains coordinator. The fiscal impact to counties is

indeterminate because it is unknown how much this will increase the county veterans' service officers' workload, as it will depend on how many unclaimed human remains are located.

**Oregon Mortuary and Cemetery Board, Oregon Health Authority, and Oregon Judicial Department**

The measure is anticipated to have no fiscal impact on the Oregon Mortuary and Cemetery Board, Oregon Health Authority, and Oregon Judicial Department.