

FISCAL IMPACT OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION

Measure: HB 2147 A

82nd Oregon Legislative Assembly – 2023 Regular Session

Legislative Fiscal Office

Only Impacts on Original or Engrossed Versions are Considered Official

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Measure Description:

Directs governing body of each county to designate person to ensure interment of unclaimed human remains of veteran or survivor of veteran.

Government Unit(s) Affected:

Department of Veterans' Affairs, Mortuary and Cemetery Board, Counties

Summary of Fiscal Impact:

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

Analysis: The measure directs county governing boards to designate veterans' remains coordinators to identify unclaimed human remains located within the county, establish eligibility for interment, and cause interment at a national cemetery. The measure also outlines the information that veterans' remains coordinators must provide to county veterans' service officers, the process for transferring remains, identity, and eligibility information of remains, the responsibilities of county veterans' service officers in the process, and the responsibility of entities that may be in possession of remains of indigent persons. The measure also prohibits civil claims against funeral establishments, except in cases of gross negligence. The measure requires the veterans' remains coordinator to submit a report to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

At this time, this measure's ramifications cannot be fully predicted and therefore, the fiscal impact cannot be determined. The measure would require counties to identify county veterans service officers responsible for processing, identifying, reporting, and eligibility determinations of veterans' remains. Veteran's remains coordinators may be a paid county employee or an unpaid volunteer. It is unknown how many counties would require additional staff to carry out these duties or would have existing staff or volunteers absorb the workload. Larger counties may be able to absorb additional costs, but it may be more difficult for smaller counties to cover them. Workload will also depend on how many unclaimed human remains are located.

The Oregon Department of Veterans Affairs and the Oregon Mortuary and Cemetery Board report no fiscal impact due to this measure.