

HB 2906 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Housing and Homelessness

Prepared By: Iva Sokolovska, LPRO Analyst

Sub-Referral To: Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Meeting Dates: 3/10, 3/31

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Establishes the Task Force on Innovative Housing Strategies for Veterans and specifies membership requirements. Directs the task force to study innovative housing strategies to provide housing for homeless and low income veterans and veterans' families in Oregon. Allows the task force to adopt rules necessary for its operation. Requires the task force to report to the Legislative Assembly by September 15, 2026. Directs the Department of Veterans' Affairs and the Housing and Community Services Department to provide staff support to the task force. Sunsets task force on January 2, 2027. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

Fiscal impact: May have fiscal impact, but no statement yet issued

Revenue impact: No revenue impact

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Homeless veterans rates in Oregon
- Barriers to leverage federal funding to house veterans

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Oregon offers a variety of assistance programs to support homeless veterans and their families, aiming to provide stable housing and essential services. HUD-VA Supportive Housing (HUD-VASH): A collaboration between the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), offering rental assistance vouchers combined with VA supportive services to help homeless veterans and their families find and sustain permanent housing. Oregon Veterans' Emergency Financial Assistance Program (OVEFAP): Provides one-time financial aid to veterans and their immediate families facing emergencies, covering needs like housing, utilities, and medical expenses. Drop-in centers provide a daytime sanctuary where homeless veterans can clean up, wash their clothing, and participate in a variety of therapeutic and rehabilitative activities. Linkages with longer-term assistance are also available. Easterseals Oregon – Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) assists veterans and their families in securing permanent housing, preventing eviction, obtaining necessary documentation, and accessing benefits. St. Vincent de Paul's Vet LIFT Program offers emergency shelter, transitional housing, and permanent supportive housing for veterans experiencing homelessness, in collaboration with the local Veterans Administration.