

HB 3460 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Emergency Management, General Government, and Veterans

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Sub-Referral To: Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Meeting Dates: 3/13, 3/25, 4/3

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure requires the Oregon Health Authority create a program to reimburse the cost of hyperbaric oxygen therapy to Oregon veterans diagnosed with traumatic brain injury or post-traumatic stress disorder, who are ineligible for medical assistance and have an income that is at or below 400 percent of federal poverty guidelines.

Detailed Summary

- Define terms; provides definition for veteran in ORS 413.650.
- Requires the department to reimburse the costs of hyperbaric oxygen therapy to Oregon veterans; defines eligibility requirements.
- Allows for the adoption of rules; exploration of opportunities to obtain federal financial participation.
- Becomes operative on January 1, 2026; allows the department to act prior to operative date necessary to enable their authority.
- Takes effect on the 91st day following adjournment sine die.

Fiscal impact: Fiscal lite

Revenue impact: No revenue impact

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Concerns about the increase in veteran suicides and overdose deaths
- Personal stories about the effectiveness of HBOT for traumatic brain injuries and post-traumatic stress disorder
- Testimony received from Gold Star families

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Hyperbaric oxygen therapy (HBOT) is used to increase the supply of oxygen to blood and tissues by delivering 100% medical-grade oxygen inside a chamber where the air pressure is raised to at least 1.4 times greater than normal. Studies have shown that HBOT may promote recovery of neurological function and improved cognitive function for patients with severe traumatic brain injury and improve symptoms and functionality in veterans with treatment resistant post-traumatic stress disorder.