

HB 3627 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Emergency Management, General Government, and Veterans

Action Date: 03/25/25

Action: Do pass and be referred to Ways and Means by prior reference

Vote: 5-0-2-0

Yeas: 5 - Boice, Grayber, Lewis, Tran, Watanabe

Exc: 2 - Evans, Skarlatos

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: No revenue impact

Prepared By: Beverly Anderson, LPRO Analyst

Meeting Dates: 3/11, 3/25

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure creates the Disabled Veterans Assistance Fund.

Detailed Description

- Requires the Oregon Department of Veterans Affairs provide grants to disabled veterans for accessibility resources at residences owned by veterans or their families.
- Requires the department to prioritize grants to disabled veterans with incomes not exceeding 80 percent of the area median income as determined by the Oregon Housing Stability Council.
- Requires the department to coordinate with county veterans' service officers on the grant program.
- Allows for rulemaking.
- Requires the department to report to the interim legislative committee related to veterans no later than December 15 of each even-numbered year; describes reporting requirements.
- Establishes the Disabled Veterans Assistance Fund; continuously appropriates moneys in the fund to the department.
- Requires the department to submit their first report no later than December 15, 2026; repeals requirement on January 2, 2027.
- Appropriates \$2 million from the General Fund to the program beginning July 1, 2025.
- Takes effect the 91st day following adjournment sine die.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Examples of possible accessibility resources
- Questions about how grant funding will be disbursed and guidelines for program

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

According to the most recent data from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, Oregon's veteran population was 266,690 in 2023, and at least 81,500 of those veterans received disability compensation from the VA that same fiscal year.

The State of Oregon's Construction Contractors Board adopted a list of model features for accessible homes as required by ORS 701.547. This includes accessibility resources, such as automatic doors, grab bars, motion detectors, ramps, sliding shelves, special lighting, and other resources for residences of people with disabilities.