

HB 2559 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Carrier: Rep. Tran

**House Committee On Emergency Management, General
Government, and Veterans**

Action Date: 04/08/25

Action: Do pass with amendments. (Printed A-Eng.)

Vote: 7-0-0-0

Yeas: 7 - Boice, Evans, Grayber, Lewis, Skarlatos, Tran, Watanabe

Fiscal: No fiscal impact

Revenue: No revenue impact

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Meeting Dates: 2/25, 4/8

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure allows an applicant's summary of benefits letter from the U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs to serve as eligibility documentation for services and benefits through the Oregon Department of Veterans Affairs and for the Oregon Veteran Dental Program.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Number of veterans in Oregon who would qualify for additional services
- Questions about criminal convictions and discharges under less than honorable conditions
- Character determinations by the U.S. Veterans Administration in relation to services received

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

The amendment removes the proposed definition of "honorable conditions."

BACKGROUND:

The mission of the Oregon Department of Veterans Affairs is to honor and serve all Oregon veterans and their families by aligning and delivering earned benefits and services that enhance and improve their lives in recognition of their service to our nation. There are an estimated 266,690 veterans living in Oregon, having served across five major war eras.

House Bill 4095 (2022) created the Veteran Dental Waiver Program at the Oregon Health Authority to provide oral health care to veterans residing in Oregon. The program expands dental care to qualified veterans who are not eligible for the Oregon Health Plan (OHP) and have an income at or below 400 percent of the federal poverty level.