

Submitter:

Michael Phillips

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

House Committee On Revenue

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

HB2050

We absolutely need to do better for our service members. As a lifetime Oregonian I am saddened that some of the most our best citizens leave oregon due to its lack of support. I have served for over 20 years in the Oregon National Guard and there are several states that I can move to that will not tax my retirement income. That will be money not circulating in Oregon's economy. I believe this bill has been significant reduced by some of the revisions and hope by passing this version it will help future revisions to be more inclusive of all service members retirements.

Do a quick search of how oregon rates for military retirees- dead last. The worst. Lowest. We can do better.

Oregon consistently ranks among the worst states for military retirees, often being ranked last or near last in various studies. This is due to a combination of factors including high taxes on military retirement pay, a high cost of living, and challenges accessing VA healthcare in rural areas. While Oregon offers some benefits to veterans, its overall ranking suggests it's not a highly favorable state for military retirees.

Here's a more detailed breakdown:

Overall Ranking:

Oregon often ranks 51st out of 51 states and the District of Columbia in studies evaluating states for military retirees.

Economic Environment:

Oregon has a high cost of living, particularly in urban areas, and taxes military retirement income at the same rate as other income.

Healthcare:

While Oregon has VA healthcare facilities, accessing them in rural areas can be challenging.

Tax Implications:

Oregon taxes military retirement pay as regular income, unlike some states that offer exemptions or partial exclusions.

Oregon took 51st overall in the rankings (which include the District of Columbia) for the third year in a row, with Washington state placing 50th. Oregon also finished last in the survey's quality-of-life ranking, while Washington was 48th on that list and 50th in health care metrics. May 19, 2025

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