

HB 2689 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Veterans and Emergency Preparedness

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Sub-Referral To: Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Meeting Dates: 3/2

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Establishes the Task Force on Innovative Housing Strategies for Veterans to study strategies to house low income veterans and their families, including the creation of a housing authority to acquire real estate and other assets during economic downturns, and report to the Legislature by September 15, 2018. Sunsets December 31, 2018. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

FISCAL: May have fiscal impact, no statement yet issued.

REVENUE: May have revenue impact, no statement yet issued.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

A 2015 Point in Time Count for Homelessness in Oregon concluded that of the 13,176 people identified as homeless on a single night, 1,467 were homeless veterans. This is 11% of the entire homeless population. Fifty-three percent of these homeless veterans were sheltered and 47% were living in unsheltered locations. The vast majority (89% or 1,302) of homeless veterans were men, but 156 were women and five were transgender. Forty percent of homeless veterans were chronically homeless, and chronically homeless veterans make up 62% of the unsheltered homeless veteran population.

House Bill 2689 establishes a task force to study innovative strategies to provide housing to veterans and veterans' families, develop viable implementation plans, and report to the Legislature on findings and plans for implementation.