

FISCAL IMPACT OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION

Measure: HB 2689

79th Oregon Legislative Assembly – 2017 Regular Session
Legislative Fiscal Office

*Only Impacts on Original or Engrossed
Versions are Considered Official*

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Measure Description:

Establishes Task Force on Innovative Housing Strategies for Veterans.

Government Unit(s) Affected:

Department of Veterans' Affairs, Housing and Community Services Department, Legislative Assembly

Analysis:

House Bill 2689 establishes the 11-member Task Force on Innovative Housing Strategies for Veterans charged with exploring strategies to provide housing for homeless and low-income veterans and their families. The task force sunsets on December 31, 2018.

Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs (ODVA) and
Oregon Housing and Community Services Department (OHCS)

The fiscal impact of this bill on ODVA and OHCS is indeterminate depending on the scope of work undertaken by the task force. Each agency must appoint three representatives to the task force. The bill also requires these two agencies to provide staff support to the task force, including attending task force meetings, collecting data, providing analysis, and preparing the report to the Legislative Assembly. ODVA and OHCS estimates the combined staffing costs for both agencies to be approximately \$30,000. The bill is silent on whether the cost of supporting the task force should come from the General Fund or Lottery Funds proceeds dedicated to veterans' services.

In addition, the bill requires the task force to look into at least two housing strategies: (1) establishing a housing purchasing authority; and (2) setting up a process for the state to purchase vacant housing developments. For each strategy option, the task force must develop a viable plan for implementation. If the development of these implementation plans requires more work than anticipated, or expertise outside the core competencies of these two agencies, consulting or contract costs may be incurred.

Legislative Assembly

The bill specifies that non-legislative members of the task force serve as volunteers and are not entitled to compensation or reimbursement. However, two members of the task force will be Legislative members who are entitled to per diem and travel reimbursement. Although the 2017-19 Legislative Branch budget contains funds allocated for interim committee and task force, if the work required by this task force, or if the cumulative enactment of other legislation with interim committees and task forces exceeds expenditure levels beyond those assumed in the 2017-19 budget, additional General Fund resources may be required.