

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
VETERANS' AFFAIRS

January 13, 2005 Hearing Room C

8:30 A.M. Tapes 1 – 2

(Corrected 7-8-05)

MEMBERS PRESENT: **Rep. Donna Nelson, Chair**

Rep. Phil Barnhart, Vice-Chair

Rep. Debi Farr, Vice-Chair

Rep. Brian Boquist

Rep. Scott Bruun

Rep. Dave Hunt

Rep. Betty Komp

STAFF PRESENT: **Jim Stenbridge, Committee Administrator**

Erin Seiler, Committee Assistant

MEASURES/ISSUES HEARD:

Adoption of Committee Rules - Organizational Meeting

Veterans' Issues - Informational Meeting

These minutes are in compliance with Senate and House Rules. Only text enclosed in quotation marks reports a speaker's exact words. For complete contents, please refer to the tapes.

TAPE/#Speaker**Comments****TAPE 1, A**

003 Chair Nelson Opens the meeting at 8:30 a.m. Opens an organizational meeting for the adoption of committee rules.

ADOPTION OF COMMITTEE RULES - ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

007 Jim Stembridge Committee Administrator. Submits and summarizes proposed Committee Rules (**EXHIBIT A**).

060 Rep. Barnhart Asks if rule number one, the 24-hour-notice provision, conflict with the 48-hour-agenda notice provision.

066 Stembridge States that placing "rule change" item on the committee agenda would still be subject to 48-hour requirement, while the actual wording of the change proposed would be subject to 24-hour requirement.

107 Rep. Barnhart **MOTION: Moves to ADOPT the proposed Committee Rules dated 01/13/05.**

VOTE: 7-0-0

Chair Nelson Hearing no objection, declares the motion CARRIED.

110 Chair Nelson Closes organizational meeting for the adoption of committee rules.

119 Holly Robinson Deputy Legislative Counsel, Office of Legislative Counsel. Explains the responsibilities of legislative counsel.

141 Rep. Komp House District 22. Summarizes goals for the Committee.

151 Rep. Boquist House District 23. Explains that the goals of the Committee are to take care of returning soldiers and help reintegrate into their communities.

172 Rep. Barnhart House District 11. Summarizes goals for the Committee.

- 219 Rep. Bruun House District 37. Summarizes goals for the Committee.
- 245 Rep. Hunt House District 40. Summarizes goals for the Committee.
- 262 Rep. Farr House District 14. Summarizes goals for the Committee.
- 294 Chair Nelson House District 24. Summarizes goals for the Committee.
- 348 Chair Nelson Introduces the Committee staff.

TAPE 2, A

- 046 Chair Nelson Closes the organizational meeting for adoption of committee rules. Opens an informational meeting on Veterans' Issues.

VETERANS' ISSUES - INFORMATIONAL MEETING

- 059 Jim Willis Director, Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs (ODVA). Explains the purpose, benefits, and services provided by ODVA.
- 098 Willis Summarizes the Oregon veteran population by conflict.
- 135 Willis Explains the "system" of veterans' assistance and identifies the specific programs and services provided by ODVA.
- 181 Rep. Barnhart Verifies that the cost of the Veterans' Home Loan Program is \$200 million dollars for all participating states.
- 190 Rep. Boquist Addresses the importance of supporting all Oregon soldiers and veterans.
- 240 Sean Cruz Legislative Assistant, Office of Senator Avel Gordly. Submits and summarizes LC 980, relating to child support obligations of members of Oregon National Guard (**EXHIBIT B**).
- 325 Tamara Brickman Legislative Coordinator, Oregon Employment Department (OED). Submits and summarizes OED Overview report (**EXHIBIT C**).

335 Jim Booker State Veteran's Program Coordinator, OED. Submits and summarizes OED Veteran's Program report (**EXHIBIT D**).

TAPE 1, B

039 Booker Cites a successful example of an incarcerated veteran returning to work.

051 Chair Nelson Asks how a veteran learns of the programs and services available through OED.

059 Booker Explains how OED disseminates information to Oregon's veteran population.

070 Chair Nelson Asks how many veterans OED has assisted in finding jobs.

073 Booker Estimates OED has helped between 50,000-60,000 veterans.

077 Chair Nelson Asks for clarification of definition of veteran.

081 Booker Explains that a veteran is someone who has served on active duty for 180 days, has a service-connected disability, or received a campaign medal. Confirms that the "moment a soldier steps foot into combat" they are eligible for assistance from OED.

114 Rep. Bruun Asks how OED reaches out to homeless veterans.

128 Booker Explains that they have federal mandate to specifically target homeless veterans by marketing services through homeless shelters and veterans' centers.

147 Rep. Hunt Asks if there are any identified needs that "fall in between the cracks of what the federal government does."

161 Booker Identifies transportation, basic living supplies, and health care as that are underfunded.

194 Mac MacDonald Representative, Veterans' Organizations. Speaks to his history as a veteran and his role in as an advocate for veterans.

- 312 Chair Nelson Discusses the possibility of drafting a bill that would award honorary high school diplomas to Vietnam War veterans.
- 394 Chair Nelson Closes the informational meeting on Veterans' Issues. Adjourns the meeting at 9:55 a.m.

EXHIBIT SUMMARY

- A. Rules, proposed Committee Rules, staff, 2 pp**
- B. Veterans' Issues, LC 980, Sean Cruz, 3 pp**
- C. Veterans' Issues, OED Overview Report, Tamara Brickman, 2 pp**
- D. Veterans' Issues, OED Veteran's Program Report, Jim Booker, 2 pp**