

**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON**  
**VETERANS' AFFAIRS**

**April 21, 2005 Hearing Room C**

**8:30 A.M. Tapes 77 - 79**

**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 Stembridge, Committee Administrator**

**Erin Seiler, Committee Assistant**

**MEASURES/ISSUES HEARD:**

**HB 3332 – Work Session**

**HB 3334 - Work Session**

**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.**

<b>TAPE/#</b>	<b>Speaker</b>	<b>Comments</b>
---------------	----------------	-----------------

**TAPE 77, A**

002 Chair Nelson Opens the meeting at 8:39 a.m. Opens the work session on HB 3332.

**HB 3332 – WORK SESSION**

047 Jim Stembridge Explains HB 3332, which authorizes Public Employees' Benefit Board to offer high deductible health benefit plan to members of Oregon National Guard and dependents of members without health insurance coverage. Submits and summarizes -1 amendments **(EXHIBIT A)**. Submits *Albany Times-Union* newspaper article titled "Citizen-Soldiers' TRICARE" **(EXHIBIT B)**.

061 Rep. Jeff Kropf House District 17. Testifies in support of HB 3332.

074 Colonel Mike Caldwell Deputy Director, Oregon Military Department. Confirms that the federal government is in the process of extending the length of health insurance coverage for National Guard soldiers serving on active duty.

107 Chair Nelson Confirms that the extended health insurance coverage is for National Guard soldiers called up under Federal title 10 code.

110 Caldwell Explains how extending both health insurance coverage and the length of healthcare coverage will be effective recruiting tools because of the significant percentage of National Guard soldiers who do not have medical coverage when not deployed on active duty.

129 Chair Nelson Asks what the typical length of service and training is for new soldiers before being deployed.

132 Caldwell Explains both the length and type of training for Oregon National Guard soldiers before being deployed.

165 Rep. Kropf Explains how a work group has been formed with members from the Insurance Pool Governing Board for the purpose of exploring the costs associated with health saving accounts and high deductible benefits plans to Oregon National Guard soldiers.

220 Rep. Kropf Asks that -1 amendments be adopted and that HB 3332 moves to the Ways and Means with a do pass recommendation.

- 228 Chair Nelson States support for HB 3332 and the importance of providing a “safety net” for Oregon National Guard soldiers.
- 244 Rep. Boquist Points out that the director of the Insurance Pool Governing Board is arranging for staff members to visit all the returning Oregon National Guard units and brief them on the Family Health Insurance Program and enroll those who qualify.
- 262 Rep. Barnhart **MOTION: Moves to ADOPT HB 3332-1 amendments dated 03/23/05.**
- VOTE: 7-0-0**
- Chair Nelson **Hearing no objection, declares the motion CARRIED.**
- 272 Rep. Barnhart **MOTION: Moves HB 3332 to the floor with a DO PASS AS AMENDED recommendation and BE REFERRED to the committee on Ways and Means by prior reference.**
- VOTE: 7-0-0**
- AYE: In a roll call vote, all members present vote Aye.**
- Chair Nelson **The motion CARRIES.**
- 280 Chair Nelson Closes the work session HB 3332. Opens the work session on HB 3334.

### **HB 3334 – WORK SESSION**

- 298 Jim Stembridge Explains HB 3334, which grants property tax exemption to members of Oregon National Guard, military reserve forces or organized militia of any other state or territory called to federal active duty under certain circumstances. Submits and summarizes -1 amendments **(EXHIBIT C)**.
- 305 Chair Nelson Asks for clarification about whether there was an amendment to change page 1, line 10 of HB 3334 from “more than 30 consecutive days” to “more than 45 consecutive days.”

- 319 Rep. Boquist Explains that it was discussed, but that that amendment was not drafted.
- 323 Rep. Jeff Kropf House District 17. States that it would “certainly be appropriate” to make such a change and amend HB 3334 when it reaches the Senate.
- 329 Rep. Boquist Points out that there is a subsequent referral attached to HB 3334 to House Revenue, but states willingness to address such an amendment when it reaches that committee
- 345 Rep. Farr **MOTION: Moves to ADOPT HB 3334-1 amendments dated 04/18/05.**
- VOTE: 6-0-1**
- EXCUSED: 1 - Komp**
- Chair Nelson **Hearing no objection, declares the motion CARRIED.**
- 359 Rep. Farr **MOTION: Moves HB 3334 to the floor with a DO PASS AS AMENDED recommendation and BE REFERRED to the committee on Revenue by prior reference.**
- VOTE: 6-0-1**
- AYE: In a roll call vote, all members present vote Aye.**
- EXCUSED: 1 - Komp**
- Chair Nelson **The motion CARRIES.**

**The following written testimony is submitted for the record without public testimony:**

- Rep. Kropf Submits written testimony in support of HB 3334 (**EXHIBIT D**).
- 380 Chair Nelson Closes the work session on HB 3334.

**TAPE 79, A**

099

Chair Nelson

Announces that the items remaining on the agenda will be carried over until April 26, 2005. Adjourns the meeting at 10:38 a.m.

**EXHIBIT SUMMARY**

- A. **HB 3332, -1 amendments, staff, 1 p**
- B. **HB 3332, *Albany Times-Union* Newspaper Article, staff, 1 p**
- C. **HB 3334, -1 amendments, staff, 1 p**

**The following written testimony is submitted for the record without public testimony:**

- D. **HB 3334, written testimony, Jeff Kropf, 1 p**