

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

**May 3, 2005 Hearing Room C**

**8:30 A.M. Tapes 86 - 87**

**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 2681 – Work Session**

**HB 2862 – Work Session**

**HCR 9 – Public Hearing and Work Session**

**HB 2864 – Work Session**

**HJM 25 – Work Session**

**HB 2700 – Public Hearing and 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>
<b>TAPE 86, A</b>		
002	Chair Nelson	Opens the meeting at 8:42 a.m. Opens the work session HB 2681.

**HB 2681 – WORK SESSION**

033	Jim Stembridge	Committee Administrator. Explains HB 2681, which requires school district to issue high school diploma upon request to veteran who served in United States Armed Forces during specified war or was present in specified operations if veteran attended high school before serving in Armed Forces, did not complete high school because of service in Armed Forces and was discharged or released under honorable conditions from Armed Forces. Submits and summarizes -1 amendments ( <b>EXHIBIT A</b> ). Submits and summarizes -3 amendments ( <b>EXHIBIT B</b> ).
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053	Rep. Barnhart	Explains the purpose of -1 amendments and -3 amendments.
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<b>084</b>	<b>Rep. Barnhart</b>	<b>MOTION: Moves to ADOPT HB 2681-3 amendments dated 04/27/05.</b>
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**VOTE: 7-0-0**

	<b>Chair Nelson</b>	<b>Hearing no objection, declares the motion CARRIED.</b>
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<b>092</b>	<b>Rep. Barnhart</b>	<b>MOTION: Moves to ADOPT HB 2681-1 amendments dated 03/22/05.</b>
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108	Chair Nelson	Clarifies how -1 amendments change HB 2681.
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<b>113</b>		<b>VOTE: 7-0-0</b>
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	<b>Chair Nelson</b>	<b>Hearing no objection, declares the motion CARRIED.</b>
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115 Rep. Barnhart **MOTION: Moves HB 2681 to the floor with a DO PASS AS AMENDED recommendation.**

**VOTE: 7-0-0**

**AYE: In a roll call vote, all members present vote Aye.**

**Chair Nelson The motion CARRIES.**

131 Chair Nelson Closes the work session on HB 2681. Opens the work session on HB 2862.

**HB 2862 – WORK SESSION**

139 Jim Stembridge Committee Administrator. Explains HB 2862, which directs public post-secondary education institutions to award credit for education and training obtained while serving in Armed Forces of United States. Submits and summarize -1 amendments (**EXHIBIT C**). Submits and summarizes -2 amendments. (**EXHIBIT D**).

157 Chair Nelson Clarifies the difference between -1 amendments and -2 amendments.

173 Stembridge Submits Oregon University System Veterans Academic Resource List (**EXHIBIT E**).

183 Rep. Boquist Confirms that -2 amendments direct the Chancellors' Office to establish the standards for the Oregon University System for awarding academic credit to veterans'.

200 Rep. Bruun Asks if -1 amendments and -2 amendments are competing amendments.

205 Stembridge Clarifies what the difference is between the -1 amendments and -2 amendments.

213 Cindy Hunt Senior Deputy, Office of the Legislative Counsel. Explains that "shall" directs community colleges to give credit and "may" makes it optional for community colleges to give credit for education and training.

225	Rep. Boquist	Verifies that “shall” places a mandate on community colleges to give credit.
231	Rep. Barnhart	Questions whether keeping the word “shall” does prevent local community college boards from adopting “unreasonable standards” for giving credit.
242	C. Hunt	Confirms that maintaining the word “shall” prevents community college boards from adopting standards that would not give any credit.
250	Rep. Barnhart	Questions how changing the language from “shall” to “may” would affect community college boards’ ability to set credit standards.
253	C. Hunt	Explains that current law gives community colleges the discretion to set the standards for awarding academic credit for military training.
264	<b>Rep. Boquist</b>	<b>MOTION: Moves to ADOPT HB 2862-2 amendments dated 04/25/05.</b>
270	Rep. Barnhart	Objects to adopting -2 amendments.
275	Rep. Boquist	Points out how community colleges have done an “exceptionally good job” assisting veterans and should be given the latitude to adopt independent standards for awarding credit.
288	Chair Nelson	Acknowledges the efforts of community colleges on behalf of veterans and states willingness to support -2 amendments despite displeasure with the language.
297	Rep. Farr	Verifies that even if -2 amendments were adopted, community colleges would not have the latitude to adopt standards that prevented awarding any credit.
303	C. Hunt	Confirms that -2 amendment prevent community college boards from adopting standards that prevent awarding any credit to soldiers.
310	Rep. Hunt	Concurs that community colleges should be given latitude to set individual standards.
327	Rep. Komp	Speaks in support of adopting -2 amendments.

360 Rep. Barnhart Withdraws objection to the motion to adopt -2 amendments.

365 **VOTE: 7-0-0**

Chair Nelson **Hearing no objection, declares the motion CARRIED.**

366 Rep. Boquist **MOTION: Moves HB 2862 to the floor with a DO PASS AS AMENDED recommendation and the SUBSEQUENT REFERRAL to the committee on Ways and Means BE RESCINDED.**

370 Rep. Hunt Verifies that permission has been given to rescind subsequent referral to Ways and Means.

397 **VOTE: 7-0-0**

**AYE: In a roll call vote, all members present vote Aye.**

Chair Nelson **The motion CARRIES.**

**REP. BOQUIST will lead discussion on the floor.**

#### **TAPE 87, B**

007 Chair Nelson Closes the work session on HB 2862.

049 Chair Nelson Opens the public hearing and work session on HCR 9.

#### **HCR 9 – PUBLIC HEARING AND WORK SESSION**

051 Jim Stembridge Committee Administrator. Explains HCR 9, which recognizes June 14 of each year as “Honor Our Troops Day.” Submits and summarizes -1 amendments (**EXHIBIT F**).

070 Chair Nelson Reads -1 amendments to HCR 9.

128 Fred Schaffer Chairman, Oregon State Chapter of Atomic Veterans. Testifies in support of HCR 9.

- 184 Schaffer Speaks to personal experience as a veteran and efforts to identify other Atomic Veterans.
- 200 Rep. Farr **MOTION: Moves to ADOPT HCR 9-1 amendments dated 05/02/05.**
- 209 Rep. Barnhart Confirms that other states have adopted the same date for recognizing Atomic veterans.
- 215 Rep. Boquist Points out the high number of Oregonians who were involved in Hiroshima and affected by Atomic testing.
- 248 **VOTE: 7-0-0**
- Chair Nelson **Hearing no objection, declares the motion CARRIED.**
- 250 Rep. Farr **MOTION: Moves HCR 9 be sent to the floor with a BE ADOPTED AS AMENDED recommendation.**
- VOTE: 7-0-0**
- AYE: In a roll call vote, all members present vote Aye.**
- Chair Nelson **The motion CARRIES.**
- REP. KROPF will lead discussion on the floor.**
- 286 Chair Nelson Closes the public hearing and work session on HCR 9. Opens the work session on HB 2864.

**HB 2864 – WORK SESSION**

- 301 Jim Stembridge Committee Administrator. HB 2864, which creates Veterans' Discharge Stipend Program to provide temporary income to veterans when discharged from active federal service. Submits and summarize -1 amendments (**EXHIBIT G**).
- 329 Rep. Boquist Asks if HB 2864 is first or second bill with a specific dollar amount attached to it.
- 332 Stembridge

Identifies all the committee measures with specific fiscal requirements.

- 355 Chair Nelson Explains the purpose of the Veterans' Discharge Stipend Program.
- 379 Rep. Hunt Asks whether the bill defines veteran using current statutory language or if new definition has been substituted.
- 395 Rep. Boquist Points out the need for an amendment with new definition of veteran because the existing statutory definition of veteran is used in the text of the bill and -1 amendments.

#### **TAPE 86, B**

- 001 Chair Nelson Closes the work session on HB 2864.
- 017 Chair Nelson Opens the work session on HJM 25.

#### **HJM 25 – WORK SESSION**

- 020 Jim Stembridge Committee Administrator. Explains HJM 25, which urges Congress to eliminate practice of subtracting disability payments from pension amounts due to disabled veterans regardless of level of disability. Submits and summarizes -1 amendments (**EXHIBIT H**).
- 039 Rep. Bruun MOTION: Moves to ADOPT HJM 25-1 amendments dated 4/29/05.**
- 040 Kevin O'Reilly Government Relations/Advocacy Director, Oregon Paralyzed Veterans of America. Submits written testimony on behalf of Jerry Ryan in support of HJM 25 (**EXHIBIT H**).
- 041 Chair Nelson Summarizes written testimony of Jerry Ryan (**EXHIBIT I**).
- 059 VOTE: 7-0-0**
- Chair Nelson **Hearing no objection, declares the motion CARRIED.**
- 062 Rep. Bruun MOTION: Moves HJM 25 be sent to the floor with a BE ADOPTED AS AMENDED recommendation.**

**VOTE: 7-0-0**

**AYE: In a roll call vote, all members present vote Aye.**

**Chair Nelson The motion CARRIES.**

**REP. BRUUN will lead discussion on the floor.**

072 Chair Nelson Closes the work session on HJM 25. Opens the public hearing and work session on HB 2700.

**HB 2700 – PUBLIC HEARING AND WORK SESSION**

079 Jim Stembridge Committee Administrator. Explains HB 2700, which directs Director of Veterans’ Affairs to establish Veterans’ Service Officer Expansion Program. Submits and summarizes -3 amendments (**EXHIBIT J**). Submits and summarize -4 amendments (**EXHIBIT K**).

111 Bill Penhollow Assistant Executive Director, Association of Oregon Counties. Testifies in support of HB 2700.

118 Tim Josi President, Association of Oregon Counties. Submits and summarizes written testimony in support of HB 2700 (**EXHIBIT L**).

177 Josi Explains why AOC does not support -3 amendments.

239 Rep. Farr Verifies that the problem AOC has is with “the maintenance of effort” and states that the goal is to increase the funding of County Veterans’ Service Officers.

262 Rep. Brad Witt House District 31. Testifies in support of HB 2700 and -4 amendments.

327 Rep. Farr Reads from -3 amendments as evidence that a county can adjust the budget for the County Veterans’ Service Officer budget if there is a decrease in revenue.

349 Rep. Farr Questions why AOC objects to the language relating to “maintenance of effort” if there is no reason, other than loss revenue, that County Veterans’ Service Officer positions would not be fully funded.



- 363 Josi States that AOC “just does not want it in statute.”
- 371 Chair Nelson Submits and summarizes written testimony on behalf of Mark Behnke in support of HB 2681 (**EXHIBIT M**).

**TAPE 87, B**

- 027 Chair Nelson Closes the public hearing and work session on HB 2700. Adjourns the meeting at 10:05 a.m.

**EXHIBIT SUMMARY**

- A. **HB 2681, -1 amendments, staff, 1 p**
- B. **HB 2681, -3 amendments, staff, 3 pp**
- C. **HB 2862, -1 amendments, staff, 1 p**
- D. **HB 2862, -2 amendments, staff, 1 p**
- E. **HB 2862, Oregon University System Veterans Academic Resource List, staff, 3 pp**
- F. **HCR 9, -1 amendments, staff, 2 pp**
- G. **HB 2864, -1 amendments, staff, 2 pp**
- H. **HJM 25, -1 amendments, staff, 1 p**
  - I. **HJM 25, written testimony of Jerry Ryan, Kevin O’Reilly, 1 p**
- J. **HB 2700, -3 amendments, staff, 5 pp**
- K. **HB 2700, -4 amendments, staff, 4 pp**
- L. **HB 2700, written testimony, Tim Josi, 4 pp**
- M. **HB 2681, written testimony of Mark Behnke, Donna Nelson, 2 pp**