

**Enrolled**  
**Senate Bill 946**

Sponsored by Senators GELSER, COURTNEY, Representative NOSSE; Senators BOQUIST,  
STEINER HAYWARD, Representatives PARRISH, WILLIAMSON

CHAPTER .....

AN ACT

Relating to veterans; and declaring an emergency.

**Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:**

**SECTION 1. (1) The position of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Coordinator is created within the Department of Veterans' Affairs.**

**(2) The duties of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Coordinator include, but are not limited to:**

**(a) Conducting outreach to, and providing assistance designed for the unique needs of, veterans who are lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender, and to the spouses and dependents of such veterans.**

**(b) Providing assistance to veterans who are lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender in applying for an upgrade to the character of a discharge from service or a change in the narrative reason for a discharge from service.**

**(c) Providing assistance in applying for and obtaining veterans' benefits and benefits available through other programs that provide services and resources to veterans who are lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender, and to the spouses and dependents of such veterans.**

**(d) Providing assistance to veterans who are lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender in applying for, and in appealing any denial of, federal and state veterans' benefits and aid that such veterans, and the spouses and dependents of such veterans, may be entitled to.**

**(e) Developing and distributing informational materials to veterans who are lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender, and to the spouses and dependents of such veterans, regarding veterans' benefits and other benefit programs that provide services and resources to veterans who are lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender, and to the spouses and dependents of such veterans.**

**SECTION 2. No later than September 15, 2018, the Department of Veterans' Affairs shall prepare and submit a report to the standing and interim committees of the Legislative Assembly that have authority over the subject area of veterans' affairs regarding the implementation and status of the position of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Coordinator created under section 1 of this 2015 Act. The report must include, at a minimum, information regarding the following:**

**(1) The number of veterans served;**

**(2) The type of assistance provided;**

**(3) Recommendations for the improvement and expansion of the services provided by the coordinator; and**

**(4) Recommendations for legislative changes.**

**SECTION 3.** In addition to and not in lieu of any other appropriation, there is appropriated to the Department of Veterans' Affairs, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2015, out of the General Fund, the amount of \$182,787, which may be expended for the purpose of implementing and administering the position of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Coordinator created under section 1 of this 2015 Act.

**SECTION 4.** This 2015 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2015 Act takes effect on its passage.

**Passed by Senate July 3, 2015**

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Lori L. Brocker, Secretary of Senate

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Peter Courtney, President of Senate

**Passed by House July 6, 2015**

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Tina Kotek, Speaker of House

**Received by Governor:**

.....M.,....., 2015

**Approved:**

.....M.,....., 2015

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Kate Brown, Governor

**Filed in Office of Secretary of State:**

.....M.,....., 2015

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Jeanne P. Atkins, Secretary of State