

B-Engrossed
Senate Bill 143

Ordered by the House June 6
Including Senate Amendments dated April 12 and House Amendments
dated June 6

Sponsored by Senators MONNES ANDERSON, BOQUIST; Senators MANNING JR, OLSEN (Pre-session filed.)

SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure.

[Directs Advisory Committee to review, consider and report to interim legislative committees relating to veterans no later than February 1, 2018, regarding programs to establish or expand campus veteran resource centers and campus veteran resource coordinators on campuses of community colleges and public universities to help veterans successfully transition from military service to college life, succeed in college, complete educational goals and transition from college to workforce and community.]

Directs Department of Veterans' Affairs to develop and implement one or more grant programs statewide to expand and enhance existing campus veteran resource centers and employ campus veteran resource coordinators on campuses of community colleges and public universities to help veterans successfully transition from military service to college life, succeed in college, complete educational goals and transition from college to workforce and community.

Appropriates moneys from veterans' services fund to Department of Veterans' Affairs for purpose of implementing grant programs.

Requires Department of Veterans' Affairs to submit report on grant programs to interim legislative committees relating to veterans by August 31, 2018.

Requires Advisory Committee to report to interim legislative committees related to veterans with evaluation of grant programs and recommendations for legislation by September 15, 2018.

Sunset January 2, [2019] 2020.

Takes effect on 91st day following adjournment sine die.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

Relating to provision of campus veteran resources; and prescribing an effective date.

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

SECTION 1. (1) As used in this section:

(a) "Community college" has the meaning given that term in ORS 341.005.

(b) "Public university" means a public university listed in ORS 352.002.

(c) "Veteran" has the meaning given that term in ORS 408.225.

(2) The Department of Veterans' Affairs shall develop and implement one or more conditional grant programs statewide to expand campus veteran resource centers on the campuses of Oregon community colleges and public universities. The purpose of the grant programs is to augment existing campus programs that help veterans successfully transition from military service to college life, succeed in college, complete educational goals and transition from college to the workforce and the community.

(3)(a) The department shall award multiple one-time grants under this section during the biennium beginning July 1, 2017, on a competitive basis to community colleges and public universities based on proposals submitted by the colleges and universities under subsection

NOTE: Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter *[italic and bracketed]* is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 (5) of this section that:

2 (A) Expand and enhance existing campus veteran resource centers on campus premises;

3 (B) Recruit and employ campus veteran resource coordinators who can serve as liaisons
4 to provide advocacy, understanding and resource connections for veterans;

5 (C) Attract veterans to enroll in and attend educational programs at community colleges
6 and public universities;

7 (D) Provide assistance, guidance and support to veterans in completing educational goals
8 and objectives;

9 (E) Provide resources to college administrations, faculty and staff to facilitate an
10 understanding and appreciation of the strengths, unique challenges and needs of veterans
11 and their families;

12 (F) Refer campus veterans to local county veterans' service officers appointed under ORS
13 408.410 who assist veterans in obtaining federal and state veteran benefits;

14 (G) Assist veterans in successfully transitioning to work and community life by con-
15 necting veterans with workforce and employment resources; and

16 (H) Provide resources and matching funds in an amount to be determined by the de-
17 partment.

18 (b) Grant recipients may use grant funds awarded under this section for the expansion
19 and enhancement of existing campus veteran resource center programs, including training
20 campus veteran coordinators, purchasing computer and other equipment and supplies, hiring
21 additional staff, hosting veteran events, facilitating access to workforce and community re-
22 sources that were not previously available and meeting other identified needs for the suc-
23 cessful and continued operation of the existing centers and coordinators.

24 (c) A grant recipient may use up to \$25,000 of grant funds awarded under this section to
25 pay a campus veteran resource coordinator's salary if the grant recipient commits to
26 matching at least 50 percent of grant funds used for that purpose.

27 (d) Grant recipients may not use grant funds awarded under this section to duplicate
28 services provided by county veterans' service officers appointed under ORS 406.450. However, grant recipients may use grant funds awarded under this
29 section to provide additional information and aid that is not available through county
30 veterans' service officers.

31 (4) A community college or public university may submit a grant proposal under sub-
32 section (5) of this section if the community college or public university:

33 (a) Is located in Oregon;

34 (b) Has an existing campus veteran resource center or has, or intends to hire prior to
35 the distribution of grant funds, a campus veteran resource coordinator;

36 (c) Meets, or intends to meet prior to the distribution of grant funds, a majority of the
37 criteria under subsection (3)(a) of this section; and

38 (d) Demonstrates its capacity to administer any funds awarded under this section in
39 compliance with the requirements of this section and all applicable federal and state laws.

40 (5) A community college or public university that meets the requirements of subsection
41 (4) of this section may apply for grant funds under this section by submitting a grant pro-
42 posal to the department in the form determined by the department.

43 (6) When determining which grant proposals to fund, the department shall make funds
44 available statewide and may:
45

1 (a) Give priority to those proposals that the department determines are best designed to
2 help veterans successfully transition from military service to college life, succeed in college,
3 complete educational goals and transition from college to the workforce and the community;
4 or

5 (b) Concentrate funds and resources in those areas of the state with the greatest need
6 for veteran assistance programs, as determined by the department.

7 (7)(a) The department shall award grant funds to a successful applicant in an amount
8 equal to the least of:

9 (A) The amount supported by the applicant's application;

10 (B) \$100,000; or

11 (C) Any other amount determined by the department to further the purpose of the grant
12 program.

13 (b) The department shall issue a grant award letter to the applicant setting forth a grant
14 recipient's reporting requirements under subsection (8) of this section and describing the
15 restrictions on the use of grant funds under subsection (3) of this section and as may be
16 determined by the department.

17 (c) The grant recipient may not use grant funds for purposes other than those designated
18 by the department in the recipient's award letter.

19 (8) Within 30 days after the end of each calendar quarter, each grant recipient shall
20 provide a program report to the department. The quarterly report must include a narrative
21 of the following:

22 (a) Summary of program activities;

23 (b) Description of program successes;

24 (c) Discussion of challenges the grant recipient has encountered implementing the pro-
25 gram;

26 (d) Accounting of how grant funds have been used; and

27 (e) Any other information the department requires.

28 (9) The department may allocate up to 10 percent of total funds appropriated to the de-
29 partment for purposes of the grant programs established under this section for the payment
30 of administrative expenses incurred in establishing and administering the grant programs.

31 (10) The department may collaborate with the Higher Education Coordinating Commis-
32 sion in developing and implementing the programs established under this section.

33 (11) The department may solicit and accept gifts, grants and donations from public and
34 private sources to further the purposes of this section.

35 (12) The department shall adopt rules that prescribe:

36 (a) The procedures for the grant application process, including grant review and approval;

37 (b) Grant recipient reporting requirements;

38 (c) Measurable goals and outcome requirements;

39 (d) Allowable uses of grant funds;

40 (e) Procedures for disbursement of grant funds;

41 (f) Recordkeeping requirements; and

42 (g) Any additional procedures the department determines necessary to implement the
43 provisions of this section.

44 **SECTION 2.** In addition to and not in lieu of any other appropriation, there is appropri-
45 ated to the Department of Veterans' Affairs, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2017, out of

1 the veterans' services fund established under Article XV, section 4f, of the Oregon Consti-
2 tution, the amount of \$1,100,000, which may be expended for the purposes of implementing
3 section 1 of this 2017 Act.

4 **SECTION 3.** No later than August 31, 2018, the Department of Veterans' Affairs shall
5 report to the interim legislative committees relating to veterans on the implementation of
6 the grant programs established under section 1 of this 2017 Act and on further steps required
7 to expand the programs during the 2019-2021 biennium. The department shall report in the
8 manner provided by ORS 192.245 and may include recommendations for legislation.

9 **SECTION 4.** No later than September 15, 2018, the Advisory Committee appointed under
10 ORS 406.210 shall review and consider the grant programs established under section 1 of this
11 2017 Act, including the quarterly reports submitted by the grant recipients under section 1
12 (8) of this 2017 Act and the report prepared by the Department of Veterans' Affairs under
13 section 3 of this 2017 Act, and report to the interim legislative committees relating to vet-
14 erans. The Advisory Committee shall evaluate the merits of the grant programs, how grants
15 were awarded to community colleges and public universities and how grant funds were used
16 by grant recipients. The report must address funding priorities for implementation of legis-
17 lation that will accomplish one or more of the purposes and objectives of this 2017 Act and
18 make recommendations for legislation.

19 **SECTION 5.** Sections 1 to 4 of this 2017 Act are repealed on January 2, 2020.

20 **SECTION 6.** This 2017 Act takes effect on the 91st day after the date on which the 2017
21 regular session of the Seventy-ninth Legislative Assembly adjourns sine die.
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