

HOUSE AMENDMENTS TO A-ENGROSSED SENATE BILL 143

By COMMITTEE ON VETERANS AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

June 6

1 Delete lines 4 through 13 of the printed A-engrossed bill and insert:

2 **“SECTION 1. (1) As used in this section:**

3 **“(a) ‘Community college’ has the meaning given that term in ORS 341.005.**

4 **“(b) ‘Public university’ means a public university listed in ORS 352.002.**

5 **“(c) ‘Veteran’ has the meaning given that term in ORS 408.225.**

6 **“(2) The Department of Veterans’ Affairs shall develop and implement one or more con-**
7 **ditional grant programs statewide to expand campus veteran resource centers on the cam-**
8 **pus of Oregon community colleges and public universities. The purpose of the grant**
9 **programs is to augment existing campus programs that help veterans successfully transition**
10 **from military service to college life, succeed in college, complete educational goals and**
11 **transition from college to the workforce and the community.**

12 **“(3)(a) The department shall award multiple one-time grants under this section during**
13 **the biennium beginning July 1, 2017, on a competitive basis to community colleges and public**
14 **universities based on proposals submitted by the colleges and universities under subsection**
15 **(5) of this section that:**

16 **“(A) Expand and enhance existing campus veteran resource centers on campus premises;**

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

19 **“(C) Attract veterans to enroll in and attend educational programs at community col-**
20 **leges and public universities;**

21 **“(D) Provide assistance, guidance and support to veterans in completing educational**
22 **goals and objectives;**

23 **“(E) Provide resources to college administrations, faculty and staff to facilitate an**
24 **understanding and appreciation of the strengths, unique challenges and needs of veterans**
25 **and their families;**

26 **“(F) Refer campus veterans to local county veterans’ service officers appointed under**
27 **ORS 408.410 who assist veterans in obtaining federal and state veteran benefits;**

28 **“(G) Assist veterans in successfully transitioning to work and community life by con-**
29 **necting veterans with workforce and employment resources; and**

30 **“(H) Provide resources and matching funds in an amount to be determined by the de-**
31 **partment.**

32 **“(b) Grant recipients may use grant funds awarded under this section for the expansion**
33 **and enhancement of existing campus veteran resource center programs, including training**
34 **campus veteran coordinators, purchasing computer and other equipment and supplies, hiring**
35 **additional staff, hosting veteran events, facilitating access to workforce and community re-**

1 sources that were not previously available and meeting other identified needs for the suc-
2 cessful and continued operation of the existing centers and coordinators.

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

6 “(d) Grant recipients may not use grant funds awarded under this section to duplicate
7 services provided by county veterans’ service officers appointed under ORS 408.410, as de-
8 scribed in ORS 406.450. However, grant recipients may use grant funds awarded under this
9 section to provide additional information and aid that is not available through county
10 veterans’ service officers.

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

13 “(a) Is located in Oregon;

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

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

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

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

23 “(6) When determining which grant proposals to fund, the department shall make funds
24 available statewide and may:

25 “(a) Give priority to those proposals that the department determines are best designed
26 to help veterans successfully transition from military service to college life, succeed in col-
27 lege, complete educational goals and transition from college to the workforce and the com-
28 munity; or

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

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

33 “(A) The amount supported by the applicant’s application;

34 “(B) \$100,000; or

35 “(C) Any other amount determined by the department to further the purpose of the grant
36 program.

37 “(b) The department shall issue a grant award letter to the applicant setting forth a
38 grant recipient’s reporting requirements under subsection (8) of this section and describing
39 the restrictions on the use of grant funds under subsection (3) of this section and as may
40 be determined by the department.

41 “(c) The grant recipient may not use grant funds for purposes other than those desig-
42 nated by the department in the recipient’s award letter.

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

1 “(a) Summary of program activities;
2 “(b) Description of program successes;
3 “(c) Discussion of challenges the grant recipient has encountered implementing the pro-
4 gram;
5 “(d) Accounting of how grant funds have been used; and
6 “(e) Any other information the department requires.
7 “(9) The department may allocate up to 10 percent of total funds appropriated to the
8 department for purposes of the grant programs established under this section for the pay-
9 ment of administrative expenses incurred in establishing and administering the grant pro-
10 grams.
11 “(10) The department may collaborate with the Higher Education Coordinating Commis-
12 sion in developing and implementing the programs established under this section.
13 “(11) The department may solicit and accept gifts, grants and donations from public and
14 private sources to further the purposes of this section.
15 “(12) The department shall adopt rules that prescribe:
16 “(a) The procedures for the grant application process, including grant review and ap-
17 proval;
18 “(b) Grant recipient reporting requirements;
19 “(c) Measurable goals and outcome requirements;
20 “(d) Allowable uses of grant funds;
21 “(e) Procedures for disbursement of grant funds;
22 “(f) Recordkeeping requirements; and
23 “(g) Any additional procedures the department determines necessary to implement the
24 provisions of this section.
25 “SECTION 2. In addition to and not in lieu of any other appropriation, there is appro-
26 priated to the Department of Veterans’ Affairs, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2017, out
27 of the veterans’ services fund established under Article XV, section 4f, of the Oregon Con-
28 stitution, the amount of \$1,100,000, which may be expended for the purposes of implementing
29 section 1 of this 2017 Act.
30 “SECTION 3. No later than August 31, 2018, the Department of Veterans’ Affairs shall
31 report to the interim legislative committees relating to veterans on the implementation of
32 the grant programs established under section 1 of this 2017 Act and on further steps required
33 to expand the programs during the 2019-2021 biennium. The department shall report in the
34 manner provided by ORS 192.245 and may include recommendations for legislation.
35 “SECTION 4. No later than September 15, 2018, the Advisory Committee appointed under
36 ORS 406.210 shall review and consider the grant programs established under section 1 of this
37 2017 Act, including the quarterly reports submitted by the grant recipients under section 1
38 (8) of this 2017 Act and the report prepared by the Department of Veterans’ Affairs under
39 section 3 of this 2017 Act, and report to the interim legislative committees relating to vet-
40 erans. The Advisory Committee shall evaluate the merits of the grant programs, how grants
41 were awarded to community colleges and public universities and how grant funds were used
42 by grant recipients. The report must address funding priorities for implementation of legis-
43 lation that will accomplish one or more of the purposes and objectives of this 2017 Act and
44 make recommendations for legislation.
45 “SECTION 5. Sections 1 to 4 of this 2017 Act are repealed on January 2, 2020.

