

# Senate Bill 12

Sponsored by Senator JOHNSON

## 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 **as introduced**.

Requires Director of Veterans' Affairs to use certain criteria in adopting formula for distribution of funds appropriated to Department of Veterans' Affairs to enhance and expand services provided by county veterans' service officers.

Requires Legislative Assembly to make certain appropriations each biennium.

Appropriates moneys to Department of Veterans' Affairs for distribution to counties with county veterans' service officers.

Declares emergency, effective on passage.

## A BILL FOR AN ACT

1  
2 Relating to county veterans' service officers; creating new provisions; amending ORS 406.454; ap-  
3 propriating money; and declaring an emergency.

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

5 **SECTION 1.** ORS 406.454 is amended to read:

6 406.454. *[(1)]* The Director of Veterans' Affairs shall adopt by rule a formula to distribute to  
7 county governing bodies funds appropriated to the director to enhance and expand the services  
8 provided by county veterans' service officers appointed under ORS 408.410. *[In developing the dis-*  
9 *tribution formula, the director shall consider factors that include, but need not be limited to:]*

10 *[(a) The number of veterans residing in each county;]*

11 *[(b) A base amount to be distributed equally among counties;]*

12 *[(c) Retention of an amount, not to exceed six percent of the total amount appropriated to the di-*  
13 *rector for the purposes of ORS 406.450, that would otherwise be distributed to a county governing body*  
14 *if the county governing body has not appointed county veterans' service officers; and]*

15 *[(d) Criteria for withholding funds from a county governing body.]* **The director shall develop**  
16 **the distribution formula to meet the following criteria:**

17 **(1) The governing body of each county that has appointed a county veterans' service of-**  
18 **ficer shall receive \$25,000 during each year of each biennium as a base amount.**

19 **(2) The governing body of each county that has appointed a county veterans' service of-**  
20 **ficer, in addition to the amount provided in subsection (1) of this section, shall receive a pro**  
21 **rata share of the total amount of funds appropriated to the Department of Veterans' Affairs**  
22 **to carry out the purposes of ORS 406.450. The department shall allocate each county gov-**  
23 **erning body's pro rata share according to a ratio, the numerator of which is the total num-**  
24 **ber of veterans residing in the county and the denominator of which is the total number of**  
25 **veterans living in this state, exclusive of veterans residing in counties that have not ap-**  
26 **pointed a county veterans' service officer. The department shall use the latest veterans'**  
27 **census data available from the United States Department of Veterans Affairs to calculate the**  
28 **ratio.**

**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       (3) Each biennium the Department of Veterans' Affairs shall recalculate the ratio de-  
 2       scribed in subsection (2) of this section. The department shall adjust each county governing  
 3       body's pro rata share of the total amount of funds appropriated to carry out the purposes  
 4       of ORS 406.450 so that the pro rata share reflects changes in the ratio.

5       (4) A county governing body that has not appointed a county veterans' service officer  
 6       under ORS 408.410 may not receive funds under the distribution formula developed under this  
 7       section. The department may withhold funds from a county governing body if the county  
 8       governing body or the county veterans' service officer does not use the funds distributed for  
 9       the purposes set forth in ORS 406.450. The department shall redistribute to the remaining  
 10       county governing bodies, on a pro rata basis according to the ratio calculated in subsection  
 11       (2) of this section, any funds withheld in accordance with this subsection.

12       *[(2) Funds retained under subsection (1)(c) and (d) of this section must be spent on:]*

13       *[(a) Training costs of veterans' service officers and other individuals providing similar services;*  
 14       *and]*

15       *[(b) The coordination of computer systems and technology to facilitate efficient delivery of services*  
 16       *to veterans and their spouses and dependents.]*

17       **SECTION 2.** Each biennium the Legislative Assembly shall appropriate to the Depart-  
 18       ment of Veterans' Affairs, in addition to and not in lieu of any other appropriation, the  
 19       amount of \$3,500,000 for the purpose of carrying out the provisions of ORS 406.450.

20       **SECTION 3.** In addition to and not in lieu of any other appropriation, there is appropri-  
 21       ated to the Department of Veterans' Affairs, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2007, out of  
 22       the General Fund, the amount of \$3,500,000 for the purpose of carrying out the provisions  
 23       of ORS 406.450.

24       **SECTION 4.** This 2007 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public  
 25       peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2007 Act takes effect  
 26       on its passage.

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