

# House Bill 2178

Ordered printed by the Speaker pursuant to House Rule 12.00A (5). Pre-session filed (at the request of Governor Theodore R. Kulongoski for Department of Veterans' Affairs)

## 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**.

Creates Campus Veterans' Service Officers Program in Department of Veterans' Affairs. Directs department to appoint sufficient number of veterans' service officers to ensure assignment of one veterans' service officer to every community college and every institution in Oregon University System.

## A BILL FOR AN ACT

1 Relating to veterans' service officers; creating new provisions; and amending ORS 406.452.

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

3 **SECTION 1. (1) As used in this section, "community college" has the meaning given that**  
4 **term in ORS 341.005.**

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6 **(2) There is created in the Department of Veterans' Affairs the Campus Veterans' Ser-**  
7 **vice Officers Program.**

8 **(3) The purpose of the program is to provide educational outreach to veterans to ensure**  
9 **that they obtain maximum state and federal benefits.**

10 **(4) The department shall appoint a sufficient number of campus veterans' service officers**  
11 **to ensure that there is one campus veterans' service officer on the campus of each Oregon**  
12 **community college and each institution in the Oregon University System, as described in**  
13 **ORS 352.002.**

14 **(5) Each community college and institution in the Oregon University System shall provide**  
15 **office space for the campus veterans' service officer assigned to the campus.**

16 **(6) The department may adopt rules to implement the Campus Veterans' Service Officers**  
17 **Program.**

18 **SECTION 2. The Department of Veterans' Affairs shall appoint at least one-half of the**  
19 **number of campus veterans' service officers required under section 1 of this 2009 Act during**  
20 **the first year of the 2009-2011 biennium and the remaining required number of campus vet-**  
21 **erans' service officers during the second year of the 2009-2011 biennium.**

22 **SECTION 3.** ORS 406.452 is amended to read:

23 406.452. The Director of Veterans' Affairs may establish by rule a state certification program  
24 for veterans' service officers appointed under ORS 408.410 **or section 1 of this 2009 Act** and other  
25 individuals providing similar services to ensure their competency. The program curriculum shall  
26 provide the training and education necessary to allow veterans' service officers and other individ-  
27 uals to assist veterans, spouses and dependents of veterans or survivors of veterans in applying for  
28 all federal and state veterans' benefits and aid to which veterans, spouses and dependents of veter-  
29 ans or survivors of veterans may be entitled and in appealing any denial of veterans' benefits or aid.  
30 The curriculum shall include, but need not be limited to, training and education in the following

**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 areas:

2 (1) Applicable federal, state and local laws providing benefits or aid for veterans, spouses and  
3 dependents of veterans or survivors of veterans and other benefits or aid for which veterans, spouses  
4 or dependents of veterans or survivors of veterans may be eligible;

5 (2) Skills necessary to provide quality representation and advocacy on behalf of veterans,  
6 spouses or dependents of veterans or survivors of veterans, including case preparation and handling  
7 of administrative hearings and appeals;

8 (3) Effective communication skills;

9 (4) Health care, human services and referral resources; and

10 (5) Claims management.

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