

A-Engrossed
House Bill 3104

Ordered by the House May 15
Including House Amendments dated May 15

Sponsored by Representative NATHANSON; Representatives BARKER, BOONE, CLEM, C EDWARDS, HOLVEY, MATTHEWS, RILEY

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.

[Requires state agencies to add question on agency forms and publications regarding receipt of information about veterans' benefits.]

Directs Department of Veterans' Affairs to establish website that allows members of public to request information about veterans' benefits and services. Directs department to coordinate outreach to individuals who request information. Requires department to provide county governments and certain agencies with printed materials that inform individuals how to contact department to request information.

Requires certain agencies to include link on agency website to department's website. Requires agencies to disseminate printed materials in specified manner.

Declares emergency, effective [on passage] July 1, 2009.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1
2 Relating to information for claiming veterans' benefits; and declaring an emergency.

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

4 **SECTION 1. (1) The Department of Veterans' Affairs shall establish a website that allows**
5 **members of the public to request information about veterans' benefits and services and enter**
6 **contact information.**

7 **(2) The department shall coordinate outreach to individuals who request information**
8 **through the website established under subsection (1) of this section or in any other manner.**

9 **(3) On or before October 1 of each even-numbered year, the department shall report to**
10 **the appropriate interim committees of the Legislative Assembly on the department's out-**
11 **reach to veterans.**

12 **SECTION 2. An agency, as defined in ORS 183.310, shall include on the agency's website**
13 **a link to the website established by the Department of Veterans' Affairs under section 1 of**
14 **this 2009 Act.**

15 **SECTION 3. (1) As used in this section, "agency" has the meaning given that term in**
16 **ORS 183.310.**

17 **(2) In order to assist veterans in claiming federal benefits and to assist agencies and**
18 **county governments in claiming federal reimbursement for providing assistance and services**
19 **to veterans, the Department of Veterans' Affairs shall provide agencies and county govern-**
20 **ments with printed materials to inform individuals how to contact the department to request**
21 **information about veterans' benefits and services.**

22 **(3) An agency or county government shall:**

23 **(a) Make available in offices that are accessible to the public the information provided**

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 under subsection (2) of this section; and

2 (b) When appropriate, feasible and consistent with the agency's or county government's
3 mission, make reasonable efforts to provide the information provided under subsection (2)
4 of this section to customers or clients during face-to-face contacts.

5 (4) An agency or county government may cooperate with elected officials, local govern-
6 ments, school districts and community colleges to implement other measures to direct cus-
7 tomers or clients to the department to obtain information about veterans' benefits and
8 services.

9 (5) On or before October 1 of each even-numbered year, agency directors shall report to
10 the appropriate interim committees of the Legislative Assembly on the effectiveness of
11 measures undertaken to implement the provisions of this section.

12 (6) This section does not require an agency or county government to respond to inquiries
13 from customers or clients about veterans' benefits or services.

14 **SECTION 4.** (1) Section 2 of this 2009 Act becomes operative on October 1, 2009.

15 (2) A state agency or county government may take any action before the operative date
16 of section 2 of this 2009 Act that is necessary to enable the agency or government to exer-
17 cise, on and after the operative date of section 2 of this 2009 Act, all the duties, functions
18 and powers conferred on the agency or government by section 2 of this 2009 Act.

19 **SECTION 5.** (1) Section 3 of this 2009 Act becomes operative on January 2, 2010.

20 (2) The Department of Veterans' Affairs, a state agency or a county government may
21 take any action before the operative date of section 3 of this 2009 Act that is necessary to
22 enable the department, agency or government to exercise, on and after the operative date
23 of section 3 of this 2009 Act, all the duties, functions and powers conferred on the depart-
24 ment, agency or government by section 3 of this 2009 Act.

25 **SECTION 6.** Sections 2 and 3 of this 2009 Act are repealed on January 2, 2014.

26 **SECTION 7.** This 2009 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public
27 peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2009 Act takes effect
28 July 1, 2009.

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