

FISCAL IMPACT OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION**Measure: HB 2402**Seventy-Sixth Oregon Legislative Assembly – 2011 Regular Session
Legislative Fiscal OfficePrepared by: Robin LaMonte
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Date: 2/28/2011**Measure Description:**

Appropriates moneys to Department of Veterans' Affairs for purposes of operating Campus Veterans' Service Officers Program.

Government Unit(s) Affected:

Department of Veterans' Affairs (ODVA)

Summary of Expenditure Impact

	2011-13 Biennium	2013-15 Biennium
General Fund	\$1,101,334	\$1,101,334
Total Funds	\$1,101,334	\$1,101,334
Positions	6	6
FTE	6.00	6.00

Local Government Mandate:

This bill does not affect local governments' service levels or shared revenues sufficient to trigger Section 15, Article XI of the Oregon Constitution.

Analysis:

HB 2402 appropriates \$1,101,334 General Fund to the Department of Veterans' Affairs to operate a Campus Veterans' Services Officer program. The program provides educational outreach to veterans, to assist them in accessing federal educational and related benefits.

The 2009 Legislature established the Campus Veterans' Services Officer program. The Legislature provided \$392,482 Other Funds and 5 positions (3.43 FTE) to establish the program on each of the 17 community colleges and 7 state university campuses around Oregon. Program staff rotated among these institutions of higher education. ODVA paid the 2009-11 cost of the program out of the Oregon War Veterans' Fund, but noted that General Fund would be required to continue the program in the 2011-13 biennium.

ODVA reports that the Campus Veterans' Services Officer program was instrumental in bringing 1,651 veteran students into the higher education system. This has brought over \$5.6 million in veterans' student tuition to Oregon, plus other dollars in the form of vocational rehabilitation and other compensation for disabled veterans. The program has also helped veterans to access veterans' health care benefits, which reduces Oregon health care costs.

ODVA estimates the actual cost of to implement the program as \$1,131,299 General Fund. This assumes a July 1, 2011 start date. Costs include \$782,099 General Fund for personal services and \$349,200 for services and supplies. Instate travel costs of \$201,600 General fund constitute the majority of Services and supplies costs. ODVA would continue to locate Campus Veterans' Services Officers on campuses in Portland, Corvallis, Eugene, Ashland and LaGrande. Office space is provided by the universities located in those cities.