

House Bill 3644

Sponsored by Representatives PARRISH, FREEMAN; Representatives CAMERON, ESQUIVEL, GILLIAM, HANNA, MATTHEWS, SHEEHAN, THOMPSON, WEIDNER, WHISNANT, WINGARD, WITT

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 law enforcement unit to train public safety officers in veterans' issues.

Directs counties to consider implementing veterans' court.

Directs Oregon Military Department and Department of Veterans' Affairs to establish peer mentoring program for veterans.

Requires public safety officer to ask person whom officer arrests whether person has served in military. Requires officer to contact veterans' organization for advice.

Requires Oregon Military Department to provide training for key employees and develop, and make available, video presentations on veterans' issues.

Declares emergency, effective on passage.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1 Relating to veterans; and declaring an emergency.

2
3 Whereas Oregon has more than 340,000 veterans who have served in multiple conflicts and
4 theaters around the world, including but not limited to those in World War II, Korea, Vietnam,
5 Lebanon, Grenada, Panama, Somalia, Bosnia, Kosovo, Iraq and Afghanistan; and

6 Whereas the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq are the longest combat operations since Vietnam and
7 more than 27,000 Oregon service members have served in Operation Enduring Freedom and Opera-
8 tion Iraqi Freedom; and

9 Whereas many returning veterans are dealing with post-traumatic stress disorder, traumatic
10 brain injury and military sexual trauma; and

11 Whereas many returning veterans have found themselves embroiled in marital crisis, unemploy-
12 ment, financial stress or homelessness due in part to the experience and aftereffects of deployment
13 in a combat zone; and

14 Whereas many service members, veterans and their families are experiencing increased family
15 conflict, bursts of anger and violence, assault, substance abuse, sexual assault and other relationship
16 dysfunction; and

17 Whereas the stresses of war, multiple deployments and long family separations impact veterans'
18 reintegration into communities and are worsened by a weak economy; and

19 Whereas the possibility for negative interaction with law enforcement increases with these
20 stressors if they are left untreated; and

21 Whereas this state should endeavor to mitigate these issues before they become a crisis in which
22 veterans become a danger to themselves or others, requiring intervention; now, therefore,

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

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

25 (a) **"Law enforcement unit" has the meaning given that term in ORS 181.610.**

26 (b) **"Public safety officer" has the meaning given that term in ORS 181.610.**

27 (2) **A law enforcement unit shall train each public safety officer employed by the law**

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 enforcement unit in issues relating to veterans.

2 **SECTION 2.** A county shall consider implementing a criminal justice system that allows
3 cases that involve veterans to be heard within a multidisciplinary setting.

4 **SECTION 3.** The Oregon Military Department and the Department of Veterans' Affairs
5 shall establish a peer mentoring program for veterans.

6 **SECTION 4.** (1) A public safety officer, as that term is defined in ORS 181.610, shall ask
7 each person the officer arrests, within a reasonable time after the arrest, whether the per-
8 son has served in the military.

9 (2) If a person subject to arrest indicates that the person has served in the military, the
10 officer shall contact the Oregon Military Department, the Department of Veterans' Affairs
11 or another organization that assists veterans for advice and counsel.

12 **SECTION 5.** (1) The Oregon Military Department shall:

13 (a) Provide training to key employees of the department about how to identify impending
14 crisis in veterans.

15 (b) Create a video presentation on veterans' issues and make the video available to public
16 and private organizations and on the department's website.

17 (c) Create a video presentation on veterans' issues for family members of veterans to
18 educate family members of veterans about identifying impending crisis in veterans. The de-
19 partment shall make the video available on its website.

20 (2) The department may work with public and private organizations to carry out the
21 provisions of this section.

22 **SECTION 6.** This 2011 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public
23 peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2011 Act takes effect
24 on its passage.

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