

Senate Bill 276

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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**.

States that Legislative Assembly finds that United States Department of Veterans Affairs Veterans Health Administration should be encouraged to export its expertise in conditions associated with military service to health care providers outside of administration and that health care providers outside of administration should seek continuing education regarding conditions associated with military service.

Declares emergency, effective on passage.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1
2 Relating to health care for veterans; and declaring an emergency.

3 Whereas there are more than 25,000 veterans in the State of Oregon who are women; and

4 Whereas more than 250,000 women have served in Iraq and Afghanistan, many of whom served
5 in combat; and

6 Whereas military sexual trauma, which can result in post-traumatic stress disorder, depression,
7 anxiety and other mental and emotional health concerns, is at epidemic levels in the Armed Forces
8 of the United States, with one in every five female servicemembers and many male servicemembers
9 claiming some level of military sexual trauma; and

10 Whereas the United States Department of Veterans Affairs Veterans Health Administration has
11 expertise in military sexual trauma, post-traumatic stress disorder and the physical conditions as-
12 sociated with military sexual trauma; and

13 Whereas many female veterans do not identify themselves as veterans and do not use Veterans
14 Health Administration medical services if they need care for military sexual trauma; and

15 Whereas medical providers, social workers, counselors, psychologists, psychiatrists and other
16 providers outside of the Veterans Health Administration could benefit from continuing education on
17 military sexual trauma; now, therefore,

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

19 **SECTION 1. The Legislative Assembly finds that:**

20 **(1) The United States Department of Veterans Affairs Veterans Health Administration**
21 **should be encouraged to export its expertise in military sexual trauma, post-traumatic stress**
22 **disorder and other conditions associated with military service to health care providers out-**
23 **side of the administration; and**

24 **(2) Health care providers outside of the administration should be encouraged to seek out**
25 **continuing education in military sexual trauma, post-traumatic stress disorder and other**
26 **conditions associated with military service.**

27 **SECTION 2. This 2011 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public**
28 **peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2011 Act takes effect**

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 **on its passage.**

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