

D R A F T

SUMMARY

Directs Department of Veterans' Affairs to create and coordinate public information campaign to prevent suicide by veterans.

Directs department to conduct outreach to, and cooperate and coordinate with, cities, counties, community organizations, persons and organizations to provide services and assistance to veterans regarding veterans' benefits through alternative means and resources in addition to county veterans' service officers program. Requires department to make informational materials and training opportunities available to others in addition to county veterans' service officers.

Appropriates moneys to Department of Veterans' Affairs for purposes of operating public information campaign to prevent veteran suicides and providing information and services to veterans about veterans benefits.

Declares emergency, effective on passage.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1
2 Relating to veterans; creating new provisions; amending ORS 406.458; ap-
3 propriating money; and declaring an emergency.

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

5 **SECTION 1. (1) The Department of Veterans' Affairs shall create**
6 **and coordinate a public information campaign to inform public agen-**
7 **cies and the public about suicide prevention, including but not limited**
8 **to increasing knowledge and understanding about recognizing the**
9 **signs of a potentially suicidal veteran and resources to which veterans**
10 **who are potentially suicidal may be referred.**

11 **(2) As used in this section:**

12 **(a) "Public agencies" means the State of Oregon and any political**
13 **subdivision thereof and any county, city, district, authority, public**

1 **corporation or entity and any of their instrumentalities organized and**
2 **existing under law or charter.**

3 **(b) “Veteran” has the meaning given that term in ORS 408.225.**

4 **SECTION 2. ORS 406.458 is amended to read:**

5 406.458. **(1) The Director of Veterans’ Affairs shall carry out the pro-**
6 **visions of ORS 406.450, 406.452, 406.454 and 406.456 and subsection (2) of**
7 **this section in consultation with the Association of Oregon Counties.**

8 **(2) The Department of Veterans’ Affairs shall conduct outreach to,**
9 **and cooperate and coordinate with, cities, counties, community or-**
10 **ganizations, persons and organizations offering volunteer services un-**
11 **der ORS 406.340 and any other person or organization to provide**
12 **services and assistance described in ORS 406.450 (2) through alternative**
13 **means and resources in addition to the county veterans’ service offi-**
14 **cers program established under ORS 406.450.**

15 **(3) The department shall make the informational materials and**
16 **training opportunities described in ORS 406.450 (2)(b) available to the**
17 **cities, counties, community organizations, persons and organizations**
18 **described under subsection (2) of this section.**

19 **SECTION 3. In addition to and not in lieu of any other appropri-**
20 **ation, there is appropriated to the Department of Veterans’ Affairs,**
21 **for the biennium beginning July 1, 2013, out of the General Fund, the**
22 **Amount of \$_____, which may be expended for purposes of imple-**
23 **menting section 1 of this 2013 Act and the amendments to ORS 406.458**
24 **by section 2 of this 2013 Act.**

25 **SECTION 4. This 2013 Act being necessary for the immediate pres-**
26 **ervation of the public peace, health and safety, an emergency is de-**
27 **clared to exist, and this 2013 Act takes effect on its passage.**

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