

# House Bill 2159

Introduced and printed pursuant to House Rule 12.00. Pre-session filed (at the request of House Interim Committee on Veterans Affairs)

## 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**.

Directs Oregon Military Department to establish therapy and service dog pilot program to study use of dogs for servicemembers suffering from nonphysical injuries.

Establishes Therapy and Service Dog Pilot Program Fund. Continuously appropriates moneys in fund to department for purposes of pilot program.

Requires department to report to Legislative Assembly.

Sunset July 1, 2015.

Declares emergency, effective on passage.

## A BILL FOR AN ACT

1  
2 Relating to the therapy and service dog pilot program; appropriating money; and declaring an  
3 emergency.

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

5 **SECTION 1. (1) The Oregon Military Department, in consultation with the Oregon Na-**  
6 **tional Guard, shall establish a therapy and service dog pilot program to study the use of**  
7 **therapy and service dogs for members of the Oregon National Guard who are suffering from**  
8 **nonphysical injuries as defined by rule adopted by the department, including but not limited**  
9 **to post-traumatic stress disorders and traumatic brain injuries.**

10 **(2)(a) The pilot program shall, at a minimum, provide five members who served in combat**  
11 **with therapy or service dogs appropriate to the members' diagnoses, disabilities and needs.**

12 **(b) Dogs provided under this section must be obtained from therapy and service dog**  
13 **trainers in Oregon that are certified by Assistance Dogs International, Inc.**

14 **(3) The department may solicit volunteers to participate in or to provide assistance with**  
15 **the pilot program.**

16 **(4)(a) The department may solicit and accept grants and assistance from the United State**  
17 **Government and its agencies and from any other source, public or private.**

18 **(b) The department may accept gifts or donations of money or equipment for purposes**  
19 **of implementing and administering the pilot program.**

20 **(5) The department shall study and document the mental and emotional health, the**  
21 **medical conditions and the social interactions of members participating in the study for a**  
22 **period of two years.**

23 **(6) The department shall adopt rules to carry out the provisions of this section.**

24 **SECTION 2. (1) There is established in the State Treasury, separate and distinct from the**  
25 **General Fund, the Therapy and Service Dog Pilot Program Fund. Interest earned by the**  
26 **Therapy and Service Dog Pilot Program Fund shall be credited to the fund.**

27 **(2) Moneys in the Therapy and Service Dog Pilot Program Fund consist of:**

28 **(a) Amounts donated to the fund;**

**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 (b) Moneys transferred to the fund;

2 (c) Amounts appropriated to the fund by the Legislative Assembly;

3 (d) Earnings received on moneys in the fund; and

4 (e) Other amounts deposited in the fund from any source.

5 (3) Moneys in the fund are continuously appropriated to the Oregon Military Department  
6 for the purpose of carrying out the duties and functions under section 1 of this 2013 Act.

7 (4) The department may use moneys in the fund to pay the administrative costs associ-  
8 ated with the fund and with administering section 1 of this 2013 Act.

9 **SECTION 3.** The Oregon Military Department shall report to the committees of the 2015  
10 regular session of the Legislative Assembly related to veterans' and military affairs regard-  
11 ing the outcomes and findings of the therapy and service dog pilot program, specifically  
12 identifying whether the therapy or service dogs were of benefit to participants in the pilot  
13 program.

14 **SECTION 4.** There is appropriated to the Oregon Military Department, for the biennium  
15 beginning July 1, 2013, out of the General Fund, the amount of \$75,000 to be deposited in the  
16 Therapy and Service Dog Pilot Program Fund established under section 2 of this 2013 Act to  
17 carry out the provisions of section 1 of this 2013 Act.

18 **SECTION 5.** (1) Sections 1 to 3 of this 2013 Act are repealed on July 1, 2015.

19 (2) Unobligated moneys remaining in the Therapy and Service Dog Pilot Program Fund  
20 on July 1, 2015, shall revert to the General Fund.

21 **SECTION 6.** This 2013 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public  
22 peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2013 Act takes effect  
23 on its passage.  
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