

A-Engrossed Senate Bill 762

Ordered by the Senate April 23
Including Senate Amendments dated April 23

Sponsored by COMMITTEE ON VETERANS AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

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.

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.]

Creates Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs Veterans Suicide Prevention and Outreach Program in Department of Veterans' Affairs to publicize veterans' benefits, provide outreach regarding suicide prevention and implement public information campaign.

Establishes Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs Veterans Suicide Prevention and Outreach Program Fund. Continuously appropriates moneys in fund to department to implement public information campaign and program.

Authorizes individual taxpayers to contribute all or part of tax refund to Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs Veterans Suicide Prevention and Outreach Program. Authorizes person who applies to renew vehicle registration online to make contribution of \$1 or more to program.

Declares emergency, effective on passage.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1
2 Relating to veterans; creating new provisions; amending ORS 305.727 and 406.458; appropriating
3 money; and declaring an emergency.

4 Whereas the rate of suicide among veterans is unacceptable; and

5 Whereas many veterans are unaware of available benefits and services, placing an unacceptable
6 economic burden on the veteran, the community and the state; and

7 Whereas the best method to address suicide prevention and the lack of knowledge about
8 veterans' services is through an engaged community; now, therefore,

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

10 **SECTION 1. (1) The Department of Veterans' Affairs shall create and coordinate a public**
11 **information campaign to inform public agencies and the public about suicide prevention, in-**
12 **cluding but not limited to increasing knowledge and understanding about recognizing the**
13 **signs of a potentially suicidal veteran and resources to which veterans who are potentially**
14 **suicidal may be referred.**

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

16 **(a) "Public agencies" means the State of Oregon and any political subdivision thereof and**
17 **any county, city, district, authority, public corporation or entity and any of their instru-**

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 **mentalities organized and existing under law or charter.**

2 **(b) "Veteran" has the meaning given that term in ORS 408.225.**

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

4 406.458. (1) The Director of Veterans' Affairs shall carry out the provisions of ORS 406.450,
5 406.452, 406.454 and 406.456 **and subsection (2) of this section** in consultation with the Association
6 of Oregon Counties.

7 **(2) The Department of Veterans' Affairs shall conduct outreach to, and cooperate and**
8 **coordinate with, cities, counties, community organizations, persons and organizations offer-**
9 **ing volunteer services under ORS 406.340 and any other person or organization to provide**
10 **services and assistance described in ORS 406.450 (2) through alternative means and re-**
11 **sources, including the media, in addition to the county veterans' service officers program**
12 **established under ORS 406.450.**

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

16 **SECTION 3.** (1) **The Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs Veterans Suicide Prevention**
17 **and Outreach Program is created in the Department of Veterans' Affairs. The purposes of**
18 **the program are to publicize veterans' benefits, provide outreach regarding suicide pre-**
19 **vention for veterans in this state and implement the provisions of section 1 of this 2013 Act.**

20 **(2) The department shall adopt rules to implement the provisions of this section.**

21 **SECTION 4.** (1) **The Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs Veterans Suicide Prevention**
22 **and Outreach Program Fund is established in the State Treasury, separate and distinct from**
23 **the General Fund. Interest earned by the Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs Veterans**
24 **Suicide Prevention and Outreach Program Fund shall be credited to the fund. The fund shall**
25 **consist of:**

26 **(a) Moneys appropriated to the fund by the Legislative Assembly.**

27 **(b) Amounts credited to the fund under ORS 305.690 to 305.753.**

28 **(c) Amounts credited to the fund under section 6 of this 2013 Act.**

29 **(d) Gifts, grants and donations, in money or otherwise, for use as described in subsection**
30 **(2) of this section.**

31 **(e) Interest earned by the fund.**

32 **(2) Moneys in the fund are continuously appropriated to the Department of Veterans'**
33 **Affairs for the purposes of implementing the provisions of sections 1 and 3 of this 2013 Act.**

34 **SECTION 5.** (1) **Individual taxpayers who file an Oregon income tax return and who will**
35 **receive a tax refund from the Department of Revenue may designate that a contribution of**
36 **all or a portion of the refund be made to the Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs Vet-**
37 **erans Suicide Prevention and Outreach Program by marking the appropriate box printed on**
38 **the return as provided in ORS 305.690 to 305.753.**

39 **(2) Moneys contributed to the Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs Veterans Suicide**
40 **Prevention and Outreach Program in accordance with ORS 305.690 to 305.753 shall be depos-**
41 **ited in the Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs Veterans Suicide Prevention and Out-**
42 **reach Program Fund.**

43 **SECTION 6.** (1) **A person that applies for the renewal of vehicle registration online may**
44 **make a contribution of \$1 or more to the Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs Veterans**
45 **Suicide Prevention and Outreach Program at the time the online application for renewal of**

1 **vehicle registration is made.**

2 **(2) The vehicle registration renewal website and online application form must state that**
3 **the owner has the option of making a contribution to the Oregon Department of Veterans'**
4 **Affairs Veterans Suicide Prevention and Outreach Program.**

5 **(3) Moneys contributed to the Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs Veterans Suicide**
6 **Prevention and Outreach Program in accordance with this section shall be deposited in the**
7 **Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs Veterans Suicide Prevention and Outreach Program**
8 **Fund.**

9 **SECTION 7.** ORS 305.727 is amended to read:

10 305.727. (1) In addition to the opportunity to be listed on the Oregon individual tax return forms
11 under ORS 305.725, an entity on the eligibility roster may apply to the commission for listing in the
12 Department of Revenue instructions for tax return checkoff contribution as provided in this section.

13 (2) In order to qualify for instruction listing, the entity must apply to the commission in the
14 manner in which an entity applies for listing on the individual tax forms under ORS 305.725.

15 (3) In order to qualify for instruction listing, the entity must meet the qualifications described
16 in ORS 305.720, collect 10,000 or more signatures from electors of this state attesting that the
17 electors support the entity qualifying for instruction listing and be:

18 (a) The Oregon Veterans' Home, the Nongame Wildlife Fund, the Alzheimer's Disease Research
19 Fund, the Oregon Military Emergency Financial Assistance Fund, **the Oregon Department of**
20 **Veterans' Affairs Veterans Suicide Prevention and Outreach Program Fund** or the subaccount
21 described in ORS 316.493 for contributions dedicated to the prevention of child abuse and neglect;

22 (b) A nonprofit organization described in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code with a
23 gross income of at least \$1 million for the year prior to application; or

24 (c) The central office for a group of affiliated nonprofit organizations with a collective gross
25 income of at least \$1 million in the year prior to the year of application.

26 (4) The commission shall review applications and approve those that meet the qualifications of
27 ORS 305.720 and this section. An entity that is approved by the commission shall thereafter qualify
28 for instruction listing for six years and thereafter must reapply under this section for continued
29 listing in additional six-year periods, except that an entity that reapplies does not need to collect
30 10,000 or more signatures.

31 (5) The commission shall certify those entities that are on the eligibility roster and that the
32 commission has approved in the interim since the last preceding certification to the Department of
33 Revenue for listing in the instructions to the forms described in ORS 305.710.

34 (6) The department shall include in the instructions to the forms described in ORS 305.710 a list
35 of entities that have been certified by the commission under this section as of the date the in-
36 structions for the forms must be prepared.

37 (7) The department shall cause two lines to be included on the Oregon individual tax return
38 forms following the listing of the entities described in ORS 305.715 (2). These lines may be used by
39 a taxpayer to designate one or two entities that have qualified for instruction listing under this
40 section as the recipient of a checkoff contribution by the taxpayer.

41 (8) Amounts contributed by charitable checkoff to an instruction-listed entity shall be subject
42 to and distributed as provided in ORS 305.747.

43 **SECTION 8. This 2013 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public**
44 **peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2013 Act takes effect**
45 **on its passage.**

