

Enrolled Senate Bill 762

Sponsored by COMMITTEE ON VETERANS AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

CHAPTER

AN ACT

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

Whereas the rate of suicide among veterans is unacceptable; and

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

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

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

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

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

(a) **"Public agencies" means the State of Oregon and any political subdivision thereof and any county, city, district, authority, public corporation or entity and any of their instrumentalities organized and existing under law or charter.**

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

SECTION 2. ORS 406.458 is amended to read:

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

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

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

SECTION 3. (1) **The Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs Veterans Suicide Prevention and Outreach Program is created in the Department of Veterans' Affairs. The purposes of the program are to publicize veterans' benefits, provide outreach regarding suicide**

prevention for veterans in this state and implement the provisions of section 1 of this 2013 Act.

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

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

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

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

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

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

(e) Interest earned by the fund.

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

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

(2) Moneys contributed to the Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs Veterans Suicide Prevention and Outreach Program in accordance with ORS 305.690 to 305.753 shall be deposited in the Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs Veterans Suicide Prevention and Outreach Program Fund.

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

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

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

SECTION 7. ORS 305.727 is amended to read:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Passed by Senate June 28, 2013

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Robert Taylor, Secretary of Senate

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Peter Courtney, President of Senate

Passed by House July 1, 2013

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Tina Kotek, Speaker of House

Received by Governor:

.....M.,....., 2013

Approved:

.....M.,....., 2013

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John Kitzhaber, Governor

Filed in Office of Secretary of State:

.....M.,....., 2013

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Kate Brown, Secretary of State