



Senate Veterans and Emergency Preparedness Committee
Senate Bill 250 | March 17, 2015
Testimony of Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs

Summary and Description of the Problem

The purpose of this concept is to make technical and housekeeping amendments and to repeal outdated statutes relating to veterans in ORS chapters 406, 407 and 408. The changes include making technical and housekeeping amendments for clarity and consistency and repealing statutes that are obsolete.

Proposed Solutions

The solutions are to repeal statutes that are outdated, obsolete, or that are no longer applicable, and to make technical and housekeeping amendments for clarity, consistency and readability. ODVA implements, interprets and enforces these statutes. Repealing certain statutes will eliminate unnecessary administrative rules and make veteran's statutes easier for the public to understand and use.

Detailed Analysis

- Repeals ORS 406.500 and 406.505, relating to the “task force” for the World War II Memorial because the work of the task force was completed and World War II Memorial has been constructed.
- Repeals ORS 407.582, ORS 407.585. “Small Business Repair Loan Program,” created in 2008, but eliminated through required budget reductions. July 1, 2015, will mark five years without funding. If there is interest in reviving the program, consider administration through Business Oregon.
- Amends 408.020 “Educational Aid.” ODVA is technically mandated to provide educational financial aid to veterans even if there is no funding for the program. On advice of the Attorney General, amends the statute to state that the educational aid program is permissive, which allows the statute to remain in place even if the program does not receive an appropriation.
- Repeals ORS 408.095 “Campus Veterans’ Service Officers Program,” which was enacted in 2009, but discontinued due to a lack of funding four years ago on June 30, 2011. Campus veteran representatives on university and community college campuses provide assistance to veterans and county veteran service officers help veterans with federal benefits.
- Amends ORS 408.225, definition for “disabled veteran,” to ensure that only veterans discharged “under honorable conditions” are eligible for the veteran’s preference benefit. Technical amendment.
- Repeals ORS 408.480 “Care of veterans ineligible for federal home.” Archaic language, as no “federal home” exists. Housekeeping.
- Repeal ORS 408.750 “When county court must aid veterans; necessity of veterans organization’s consent before sending veterans to poorhouse.” This statute is archaic. County poorhouses were abandoned in Oregon in the late 1940s and early 1950s. Housekeeping.

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