

**SB 946**

**Relating to veterans**

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SB 946 creates the position of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Coordinator at the Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs, to assist veterans in seeking review and appeal of their discharge status, and to help them in filing appeals, claims, and accessing other benefits that may be available.

The Subcommittee heard testimony that until recently, many gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgendered veterans who had served in the military and been discharged, received a discharge that was other than honorable, and often based solely on orientation, not wrongdoing. It's estimated that as many as 15,000 veterans in Oregon could potentially fall into this category and, as a result, are denied benefits that they may otherwise have earned.

The measure appropriates \$182,787 General Fund to the Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs to support a permanent Program Analyst 3 position.

The Transportation and Economic Development Subcommittee recommends SB 946 be amended by the -3 amendment and be reported out do pass, as amended.