

**A-Engrossed**  
**House Bill 2838**

Ordered by the House April 24  
Including House Amendments dated April 24

Sponsored by Representative EVANS; Representatives BARKER, CLEM, FREDERICK, GILLIAM, HELM, HUFFMAN, LIVELY, MCLAIN, NOSSE, RAYFIELD, WITT

**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.

*[Establishes Oregon Incarcerated Veterans Outreach Program in Department of Veterans' Affairs to conduct outreach and provide assistance to incarcerated veterans and spouses and dependents of incarcerated veterans.]*

*[Creates Oregon Incarcerated Veterans Outreach Program Fund. Continuously appropriates monies in fund to department to implement and operate program.]*

*[Requires department to report to interim legislative committees on or before July 1, 2020, regarding program.]*

**Establishes Task Force on Incarcerated Veterans to research, study and make recommendations regarding outreach to and assistance for incarcerated veterans.**

**Requires task force to report to Legislative Assembly no later than September 15, 2016.**

**Sunset December 31, 2016.**

**Declares emergency, effective on passage.**

**A BILL FOR AN ACT**

Relating to incarcerated veterans; and declaring an emergency.

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

**SECTION 1. (1) The Task Force on Incarcerated Veterans is established, consisting of eight members appointed as follows:**

**(a) The President of the Senate shall appoint two members from among members of the Senate.**

**(b) The Speaker of the House of Representatives shall appoint two members from among members of the House of Representatives.**

**(c) The Director of Veterans' Affairs shall appoint one representative from the Department of Veterans' Affairs with expertise in services and benefits for incarcerated veterans.**

**(d) The Director of the Department of Corrections shall appoint one representative from the Department of Corrections with experience with incarcerated veterans.**

**(e) The Governor shall appoint two individuals who have been incarcerated veterans or who have had experience with incarcerated veterans.**

**(2) The task force shall research, study and make recommendations regarding the following:**

**(a) Outreach that may be done to incarcerated veterans with information about veterans' benefits and other benefit programs that provide services and resources to incarcerated veterans;**

**(b) Assistance that may be available for incarcerated veterans in applying for federal and state veterans' benefits and aid to which incarcerated veteran may be entitled on account**

**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 of the incarcerated veterans' military service;

2 (c) Assistance that may be available to incarcerated veterans in appealing any denial of  
3 veterans' benefits or aid;

4 (d) Informational materials that may be created for incarcerated veterans;

5 (e) The process and recommendations for developing a comprehensive and coordinated  
6 statewide network of information and referral resources for incarcerated veterans; and

7 (f) Recommendations for how the Department of Veterans' Affairs may serve as a liaison  
8 for incarcerated veterans and incarcerated veterans issues with the Department of Cor-  
9 rections, reentry councils, the United States Department of Veterans Affairs and others.

10 (3) A majority of the members of the task force constitutes a quorum for the transaction  
11 of business.

12 (4) Official action by the task force requires the approval of a majority of the members  
13 of the task force.

14 (5) The task force shall elect one of its members to serve as chairperson.

15 (6) If there is a vacancy for any cause, the appointing authority shall make an appoint-  
16 ment to become immediately effective.

17 (7) The task force shall meet at times and places specified by the call of the chairperson  
18 or of a majority of the members of the task force.

19 (8) The task force may adopt rules necessary for the operation of the task force.

20 (9) The task force shall submit a report in the manner provided by ORS 192.245, and may  
21 include recommendations for legislation, to the interim legislative committees with subject  
22 matter jurisdiction of veterans' affairs no later than September 15, 2016.

23 (10) The Department of Veterans' Affairs shall provide staff support to the task force.

24 (11) Members of the task force who are not members of the Legislative Assembly are not  
25 entitled to compensation, but may be reimbursed for actual and necessary travel and other  
26 expenses incurred by them in the performance of their official duties in the manner and  
27 amounts provided for in ORS 292.495. Claims for expenses incurred in performing functions  
28 of the task force shall be paid out of funds appropriated to the Department of Veterans'  
29 Affairs for purposes of the task force.

30 (12) All agencies of state government, as defined in ORS 174.111, are directed to assist  
31 the task force in the performance of its duties and, to the extent permitted by laws relating  
32 to confidentiality, to furnish such information and advice as the members of the task force  
33 consider necessary to perform their duties.

34 **SECTION 2.** Section 1 of this 2015 Act is repealed on December 31, 2016.

35 **SECTION 3.** This 2015 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public  
36 peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2015 Act takes effect  
37 on its passage.

38