

**A-Engrossed**  
**House Bill 2840**

Ordered by the House April 13  
Including House Amendments dated April 13

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 Educational and Workforce Development Bridge Loan Program in Department of Veterans' Affairs to conduct outreach and provide loans to veterans and disabled veterans who are enrolled in approved course of study, approved professional training, [or] approved workforce development program **or approved apprenticeship** in connection with institution of higher education, and who are eligible to receive federal educational aid or other financial assistance that is temporarily unavailable.

Authorizes Director of Veterans' Affairs to use moneys in Veterans' Educational Aid Account for purposes of program.

**A BILL FOR AN ACT**

1  
2 Relating to loans to certain veterans enrolled in higher education; creating new provisions; and  
3 amending ORS 408.090.

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

5 **SECTION 1. (1) As used in this section:**

6 (a) **"Disabled veteran" and "veteran" have the meanings given those terms in ORS**  
7 **408.225.**

8 (b) **"Institution of higher education" means a public university listed in ORS 352.002 or**  
9 **a community college, as defined in ORS 341.005.**

10 (2) **There is established in the Department of Veterans' Affairs the Oregon Educational**  
11 **and Workforce Development Bridge Loan Program. The purpose of the program is to conduct**  
12 **outreach and provide loans to veterans and disabled veterans who:**

13 (a) **Are pursuing and enrolled in an approved course of study, approved professional**  
14 **training, approved workforce development program or approved apprenticeship in, or in**  
15 **connection with, any institution of higher education; and**

16 (b) **Are eligible to receive educational aid or other financial assistance under any federal**  
17 **Act based upon prior service in the Armed Forces, and the aid or assistance has not yet**  
18 **commenced being paid, has been delayed, has been suspended or is otherwise temporarily**  
19 **unavailable.**

20 (3) **Loans under this section:**

21 (a) **Shall be made pursuant to a written contractual agreement between the department**  
22 **and the veteran or disabled veteran;**

23 (b) **May be made for a period of time not to exceed three months occurring once during**  
24 **a single period of five consecutive years; and**

**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       (c) Shall be in an amount that is 90 percent of the amount of any federal aid the veteran  
2 or disabled veteran is eligible for under any federal Act.

3       (4) The department shall adopt rules for the implementation and operation of the pro-  
4 gram, including but not limited to the eligibility requirements of loan recipients.

5       **SECTION 2.** ORS 408.090 is amended to read:

6       408.090. (1) The Director of Veterans' Affairs, acting on behalf of the State of Oregon, is au-  
7 thorized to accept any donation, gift, grant, bequest or devise made in furtherance of the purposes  
8 of ORS 408.010 to 408.090 **and section 1 of this 2015 Act**, and if made in cash or its equivalent or  
9 reduced thereto, shall be promptly paid by the director to the State Treasurer, who shall credit the  
10 amount so received to the Veterans' Educational Aid Account in the General Fund. The director  
11 shall make such disposition of donations, gifts, grants, bequests or devises, not made in cash or its  
12 equivalent, as is specified by the donor thereof, and their earnings and proceeds shall inure to said  
13 account. All such donations, gifts, grants, bequests or devises accepted by the director are transfers  
14 exempt from taxes imposed on inheritances under the laws of this state.

15       (2) All moneys in the Veterans' Educational Aid Account are continuously appropriated to the  
16 director and may be used by the director for the purposes authorized in ORS 408.010 to 408.090 **and**  
17 **section 1 of this 2015 Act.**

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