

House Bill 2840

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 **as introduced**.

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 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:**

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 or approved workforce development program in, or in connection with, any institu-
15 tion 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.

(3) Loans under this section:

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

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

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

26 (4) The department shall adopt rules for the implementation and operation of the pro-
27 gram, including but not limited to the eligibility requirements of loan recipients.
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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 **SECTION 2.** ORS 408.090 is amended to read:

2 408.090. (1) The Director of Veterans' Affairs, acting on behalf of the State of Oregon, is au-
3 thorized to accept any donation, gift, grant, bequest or devise made in furtherance of the purposes
4 of ORS 408.010 to 408.090 **and section 1 of this 2015 Act**, and if made in cash or its equivalent or
5 reduced thereto, shall be promptly paid by the director to the State Treasurer, who shall credit the
6 amount so received to the Veterans' Educational Aid Account in the General Fund. The director
7 shall make such disposition of donations, gifts, grants, bequests or devises, not made in cash or its
8 equivalent, as is specified by the donor thereof, and their earnings and proceeds shall inure to said
9 account. All such donations, gifts, grants, bequests or devises accepted by the director are transfers
10 exempt from taxes imposed on inheritances under the laws of this state.

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

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