

Enrolled House Bill 3479

Sponsored by Representatives PILUSO, WEIDNER, Senator MONNES ANDERSON; Representatives BOONE, BUEHLER, EVANS, GALLEGOS, GORSEK, GREENLICK, HELM, KENY-GUYER, LININGER, LIVELY, MCLAIN, PARRISH, RAYFIELD, SMITH, SMITH WARNER, TAYLOR, WHISNANT, WHITSETT, WITT, Senators BOQUIST, ROBLAN, SHIELDS, THOMSEN, WHITSETT, WINTERS

CHAPTER

AN ACT

Relating to assistance for women veterans; and declaring an emergency.

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

SECTION 1. The position of Oregon Women Veterans Coordinator is created in the Department of Veterans' Affairs. The responsibilities of the coordinator include, but are not limited to, all of the following:

- (1) Conducting outreach and providing assistance to women veterans and their spouses and dependents regarding veterans' benefits and other benefit programs that provide services and resources to women veterans and their spouses and dependents.**
- (2) Providing assistance in applying for federal and state veterans' benefits and aid that women veterans and their spouses and dependents may be entitled to and helping to appeal any denial of benefits and aid.**
- (3) Developing and distributing informational materials for women veterans and their spouses and dependents regarding veterans' benefits and other benefit programs that provide services and resources to women veterans and their spouses and dependents.**

SECTION 2. No later than September 15, 2018, the Department of Veterans' Affairs shall prepare and submit a report to the standing and interim committees of the Legislative Assembly that have authority over the subject area of veterans' affairs regarding the implementation and status of the position of Oregon Women Veterans Coordinator in the department. The report shall include, at a minimum, information regarding the following:

- (1) The number of women veterans, and spouses and dependents of women veterans, served;**
- (2) The type of assistance provided by the coordinator;**
- (3) Recommendations for the improvement and expansion of the services provided by the coordinator; and**
- (4) Recommendations for legislation.**

SECTION 3. In addition to and not in lieu of any other appropriation, there is appropriated to the Department of Veterans' Affairs, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2015, out of the General Fund, the amount of \$263,217, which may be expended for the purpose of implementing and administering the position of Oregon Women Veterans Coordinator in the Department of Veterans' Affairs.

SECTION 4. This 2015 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2015 Act takes effect July 1, 2015.

Passed by House June 22, 2015

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Timothy G. Sekerak, Chief Clerk of House

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Tina Kotek, Speaker of House

Passed by Senate June 29, 2015

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Peter Courtney, President of Senate

Received by Governor:

.....M,....., 2015

Approved:

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Kate Brown, Governor

Filed in Office of Secretary of State:

.....M,....., 2015

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Jeanne P. Atkins, Secretary of State