

# Senate Bill 946

Sponsored by Senators GELSER, COURTNEY, Representative NOSSE; Senator BOQUIST

## 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**.

Creates position of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Coordinator in Department of Veterans' Affairs to provide outreach and assistance to veterans who are lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender, and to spouses and dependents of such veterans.

Requires department to report to Legislative Assembly regarding implementation and status of coordinator position no later than September 15, 2018.

Appropriates moneys to department from General Fund to implement and administer coordinator position.

Declares emergency, effective on passage.

## A BILL FOR AN ACT

1  
2 Relating to veterans; and declaring an emergency.

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

4 **SECTION 1. (1) The position of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Coordinator is**  
5 **created within the Department of Veterans' Affairs. The position shall be held by a county**  
6 **veterans' service officer appointed under ORS 408.410.**

7 **(2) The duties of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Coordinator include, but**  
8 **are not limited to:**

9 **(a) Conducting outreach to, and providing assistance designed for the unique needs of,**  
10 **veterans who are lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender, and to the spouses and dependents**  
11 **of such veterans.**

12 **(b) Providing assistance to veterans who are lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender in**  
13 **applying for an upgrade to the character of a discharge from service or a change in the**  
14 **narrative reason for a discharge from service.**

15 **(c) Providing assistance in applying for and obtaining veterans' benefits and benefits**  
16 **available through other programs that provide services and resources to veterans who are**  
17 **lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender, and to the spouses and dependents of such veterans.**

18 **(d) Providing assistance to veterans who are lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender in**  
19 **applying for, and in appealing any denial of, federal and state veterans' benefits and aid that**  
20 **such veterans, and the spouses and dependents of such veterans, may be entitled to.**

21 **(e) Developing and distributing informational materials to veterans who are lesbian, gay,**  
22 **bisexual and transgender, and to the spouses and dependents of such veterans, regarding**  
23 **veterans' benefits and other benefit programs that provide services and resources to veter-**  
24 **ans who are lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender, and to the spouses and dependents of**  
25 **such veterans.**

26 **SECTION 2. No later than September 15, 2018, the Department of Veterans' Affairs shall**  
27 **prepare and submit a report to the standing and interim committees of the Legislative As-**  
28 **sembly that have authority over the subject area of veterans' affairs regarding the imple-**

**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 **mentation and status of the position of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Coordinator**  
2 **created under section 1 of this 2015 Act. The report must include, at a minimum, information**  
3 **regarding the following:**

4 (1) **The number of veterans served;**

5 (2) **The type of assistance provided;**

6 (3) **Recommendations for the improvement and expansion of the services provided by the**  
7 **coordinator; and**

8 (4) **Recommendations for legislative changes.**

9 **SECTION 3. In addition to and not in lieu of any other appropriation, there is appropri-**  
10 **ated to the Department of Veterans' Affairs, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2015, out of**  
11 **the General Fund, the amount of \$\_\_\_\_\_, which may be expended for the purpose of im-**  
12 **plementing and administering the position of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Coor-**  
13 **dinator created under section 1 of this 2015 Act.**

14 **SECTION 4. This 2015 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public**  
15 **peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2015 Act takes effect**  
16 **on its passage.**

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