

**PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO
SENATE BILL 638**

1 Delete lines 4 through 29 of the printed bill and insert:

2 **“SECTION 1. (1)(a) The county governing body in each county may**
3 **appoint one or more volunteer veterans’ ombudsmen to provide sup-**
4 **port services and assistance to veterans, spouses and dependents of**
5 **veterans, and survivors of veterans, within the county.**

6 **“(b) The Department of Veterans’ Affairs may appoint one or more**
7 **volunteer veterans’ ombudsmen to provide support services and as-**
8 **sistance to veterans, spouses and dependents of veterans, and survi-**
9 **vors of veterans, whom the department serves.**

10 **“(2) A volunteer veterans’ ombudsman shall provide volunteer ser-**
11 **vices under the direction of:**

12 **“(a) The county veterans’ service officers appointed under ORS**
13 **408.410, as described in ORS 406.450; or**

14 **“(b) The Department of Veterans’ Affairs, as appropriate.**

15 **“(3) The duties of a volunteer veterans’ ombudsman may include,**
16 **but are not limited to:**

17 **“(a) Developing and maintaining relationships with the local com-**
18 **munity and local service providers for veterans;**

19 **“(b) Assisting and referring veterans to county and local providers**
20 **of support services and programs for food, shelter and health care**
21 **within the county;**

22 **“(c) Assisting county veterans’ service officers or state veterans’**

1 service officers in developing, planning and implementing outreach to
2 local veterans; and

3 “(d) Assisting county veterans’ service officers or state veterans’
4 service officers by providing administrative services, including handl-
5 ing of telephone calls, scheduling client appointments, greeting cli-
6 ents, doing client intake, distributing materials, doing mailings, and
7 handling, scanning and copying of documents and files.

8 “(4) The county governing body or the department, as appropriate,
9 shall:

10 “(a) Conduct a fingerprint-based criminal records check on an ap-
11 plicant for a volunteer veterans’ ombudsman position prior to ap-
12 pointing the person to the position; and

13 “(b) Require the volunteer veterans’ ombudsman to sign an oath
14 of confidentiality relating to all information received by the ombuds-
15 man that relates to clients and applicants or recipients of veterans’
16 benefits or public assistance, including but not limited to names, ad-
17 dresses, telephone numbers, and personal, financial and medical in-
18 formation.

19 “(5) The volunteer veterans’ ombudsman shall serve as a volunteer
20 and receive no compensation. The county or the department, as ap-
21 propriate, may reimburse the volunteer veterans’ ombudsman for ex-
22 penses, may provide the ombudsman with business cards bearing the
23 county’s or the department’s official logo and may provide the om-
24 budsman with office space and equipment, if available or necessary.
25 Expenditures made pursuant to this subsection, if any, must be made
26 from the county funds described in ORS 408.720 or the department’s
27 funds, as appropriate.

28 “(6) The department may provide training for volunteer veterans’
29 ombudsmen and county veterans’ service officers on implementation
30 of this section and offer opportunities for sharing innovative practices

1 **and ideas.**

2 **“(7) As used in this section:**

3 **“(a) ‘Ombudsman’ means a guide who provides support services and**
4 **assistance to veterans, spouses and dependents of veterans, and sur-**
5 **vivors of veterans.**

6 **“(b) ‘Survivor’ means the spouse or a dependent of a deceased vet-**
7 **eran.**

8 **“(c) ‘Veteran’ has the meaning given that term in ORS 408.225.”.**

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