79th Oregon Legislative Assembly – 2017 Regular Session Legislative Fiscal Office

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Measure Description:

Establishes Task Force on Rural Medical Training Facilities.

Government Unit(s) Affected:

Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs (ODVA), Oregon State Board of Nursing (OSBN), Oregon Health Authority (OHA), Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC), city of Roseburg, Douglas County

Analysis:

House Bill 3341 with the -3 amendment creates the 11-member Task Force on Rural Medical Training Facilities charged with examining issues related to alleviating the shortage of skilled and experienced nurses and medical technicians in the city of Roseburg and in Douglas County with an emphasis on issues related to establishing a training facility in partnership with an academic program in or near the city of Roseburg. In addition, the task force is required to examine methods of reintegration into society through higher education and career training for veterans who are transitioning out of military services. The task force must report to the legislature by September 15, 2018. The bill is effective on passage, and the task force sunsets on December 31, 2018.

Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs (ODVA)

The fiscal impact of this bill on ODVA is indeterminate depending on the scope of work undertaken by the task force. Although ODVA anticipates reprioritizing duties and responsibilities of existing staff to support the task force, the bill authorizes the task force to carry out wide-ranging and undefined activities that may require outside expertise and additional resources, including:

- Consult experts.
- Perform original research.
- Perform any other task necessary to carry out the task force's charge.

If the task force determines that it would need to contract these activities to a consultant with specialized expertise, it is assumed that ODVA would be required to fund these activities. ODVA estimates professional services costs could range between \$15,000 and \$64,000 General Fund.

Legislative Assembly

The bill specifies that non-legislative members of the task force serve as volunteers and are not entitled to compensation and reimbursement. However, four members of the task force will be legislative members who are entitled to per diem and travel reimbursement. The estimated per diem and travel reimbursement cost for the four legislative members is \$804 per day. This amount includes the Federal Insurance Contribution Act (FICA) tax, and assumes per diem remains at \$142 per day, and the average mileage of 90 miles at the current rate of \$0.535 per mile. Although the 2017-19 Legislative Assembly budget contains funds allocated for interim committee and task force, if the work required by this task force, or if the cumulative enactment of other legislation with interim committees and task forces exceeds expenditure levels beyond those assumed in the 2017-19 budget, additional General Fund resources may be required. The task force would not incur additional costs to the Legislative Assembly budget if the meetings are held at the Capitol building during Legislative Session, Task force or Legislative Days.

Oregon State Board of Nursing (OSBN), Oregon Health Authority (OHA), Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC), city of Roseburg, Douglas County

The fiscal impact of this bill on OSBN, OHA, the City of Rosburg, and Douglas County is minimal. Representatives from these entities are required to serve as members of the task force. The bill authorizes the task force to add representatives from a university or community college that is willing to invest in medical training opportunities in or near Roseburg. This fiscal assumes these entities will reprioritize the duties of existing staff and resources to allow participation on the task force, including furnishing the task force with existing available data, information, advice, and other support.