

HB 2690 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Veterans and Emergency Preparedness

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Sub-Referral To: Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Meeting Dates: 3/9, 4/13

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Establishes the Oregon Educational and Workforce Development Bridge Loan Program in the Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs to conduct outreach and provide forgivable loans to veterans enrolled in a approved educational or training programs. The veteran must be eligible to receive educational aid or other financial assistance, and the aid or assistance has not yet commenced, been delayed, been suspended, or is temporarily unavailable. Any loan will be subject to a written contractual agreement that contains a requirement that the veteran repay the loan if the study, training or program is not completed. Any loan may be made for a period of time not to exceed three months occurring once during a single period of five consecutive years and may not exceed \$5000. Any loan may be forgiven by the OVDA if the veteran completes the purpose for which the loan was made. Moneys in the the Oregon Educational and Workforce Development Bridge Loan Program Fund shall consist of moneys appropriated or transferred to ODVA by the Legislative Assembly; proceeds from the repayment of loans; transfers of money to the fund including from the Veterans' Educational Aid Account; interest on money in the fund; gifts, donations or any other source.

FISCAL: Fiscal Impact Statement Issued - Indeterminate

REVENUE: Minimal Revenue Impact

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Various programs exist to assist veterans with educational opportunities, including the Montgomery GI Bill, and the Post-9/11 bill which came into effect on August 1, 2009. Under the Post 9/11 GI Bill, student veterans who served at least 30 days of continuous active duty service after September 10, 2001, and were discharged with a service-connected disability, or served an aggregate of 90 days of credible active-duty service, will receive benefits that include tuition and fees paid directly to the school; a housing allowance; and an annual book stipend of up to \$1000. The veteran must have been honorably discharged. Full benefits are not paid unless the veteran has served at least 36 months of creditable active duty service. Reservists and state national guard members are also eligible for the benefits based on an aggregate of creditable active-duty service points. The VA only pays the Post- 9/11 GI Bill for the time a veteran is in class, not the break between terms, semesters, or quarters.

House Bill 2690 creates the Oregon Educational and Workforce Development Bridge Loan Program to bridge gaps between the GI Bill and/or other veterans' educational assistance to provide veterans with financial assistance for education and training programs when other assistance is temporarily unavailable..