

SB 143 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Veterans and Emergency Preparedness

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Meeting Dates: 4/27

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Requires Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs (ODVA) Advisory Committee to advise the Legislative Assembly by February 1, 2018, on the merits of appropriating General Fund dollars to ODVA in support of veterans resource centers and coordinators currently on college campuses, and whether to establish additional centers and/or coordinators. Sunsets January 2, 2019. Takes effect 91st day after *sine die*.

FISCAL: Minimal Expenditure Impact

REVENUE: No revenue impact

Senate Vote: Ayes 29; Excused 1

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Transitioning from military to civilian life can sometimes present unique challenges for veterans. Supporting veterans' educational and employment goals are two ways the transition can be made easier. Both federal and state educational benefits for veterans encourage enrollment in public universities and community colleges, but veterans are generally atypical students in many ways: often older than their peers; often with families; and often holding a certain perspective that only comes from having served in the armed forces. On-campus resource centers are tailored to help veterans succeed, connect to other veterans, and ground them within the broader collegiate environment.

Senate Bill 143 A directs the ODVA Advisory Committee to make recommendations to the Legislative Assembly by February 1, 2018, on the merits of appropriating General Fund dollars to ODVA to support veterans resource centers and coordinators currently on college campuses, and whether to establish additional centers or coordinators.