

## SB 143 -2 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

### House Committee On Veterans and Emergency Preparedness

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**Prepared By:** Bradley Volk, LPRO Analyst

**Meeting Dates:** 4/27, 5/18

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#### 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:

-2 Replaces the measure. Directs ODVA to development and implement one or more conditional grant programs on an annual, competitive basis to community colleges and public universities to expand campus veteran resource centers by concentrating grant money in the areas of the greatest need for veterans assistance programs. Limits ODVA administrative overhead to eight percent of total funds appropriated for purposes of the grant program. Restricts a grant recipient to \$25,000 of grant funds to pay a campus resource coordinator's salary if the grant recipient commits to matching at least 50 percent of grant funds. Provides that grant recipients may not use grant funds to duplicate services provided by county veterans' services officers. Directs ODVA to develop a formula for scoring grant proposals based on a maximum score of 100 points with allocation percentages based on various criteria. Requires grant recipients to provide a program report to ODVA within 30 days after the end of each calendar quarter. Provides that in addition to and not in lieu of money appropriated to ODVA for the biennium beginning July 1, 2017, ODVA may use \$1.1 million out of the veterans' service fund established under Article XV, section 4f, of the Oregon Constitution. Directs ODVA to report to the interim Legislative Assembly no later than August 31, 2018, on implementation of the grant programs and on further steps required to expand programs during the 2019-2021 biennium. Takes effect on the 91st day after *sine die*.

##### 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.