

SB 143 A -3, -4 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Veterans and Emergency Preparedness

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Meeting Dates: 4/27, 5/18, 6/1

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:

-3 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. Limits ODVA administrative overhead to ten percent of total funds appropriated for purposes of the grant program. Permits grant recipients to use grant funds for the expansion and enhancement of existing campus veteran resource center programs, including training campus veteran coordinators, purchase of equipment, hiring additional staff, hosting veteran events, facilitating access to workforce and community resources, and meeting other identified needs. 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. Sets criteria as when a community college or public university may submit a grant proposal. Permits the ODVA to give priority to proposals that it determines are best designed to help veterans transition from military service to college life, and thereafter to the workforce. Directs ODVA to award grant funds to a successful applicant in an amount equal to the lesser of the amount supported by the application, \$100,000, or an amount determined by ODVA to further the purpose of the grant program. Requires grant recipients to provide a program report to ODVA within 30 days after the end of each calendar quarter. Directs ODVA to adopt specific rules. 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. Directs the ODVA advisory committee no later than September 15, 2018, will review and consider the grant programs, quarter reports, and the report prepared by ODVA, and report to the interim legislative committees related to veterans. Directs that Sections 1 to 4 of the measure are repealed January 2, 2020. Takes effect on the 91st day after *sine die*.

-4 Returns to original SB 143 measure with no amendments. Requires the Department of Veterans' Affairs (ODVA) to administer two grant programs to support existing, and establishing anew, veterans resource centers and coordinators on college campuses, without duplicating the functions of county Veterans Service Officers, and appropriate General Fund dollars to that end. Directs ODVA to train, provide technical assistance, and keep coordinators connected. Permits ODVA to cooperate with the Higher Education Coordinating Commission and to
This Summary has not been adopted or officially endorsed by action of the committee.

solicit and receive funds from alternate sources. Declares emergency, effective July 1, 2017.

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.