

**SB 143 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**

**Senate Committee On Veterans and Emergency Preparedness**

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**Prepared By:** C Ross, LPRO Analyst

**Sub-Referral To:** Joint Committee On Ways and Means

**Meeting Dates:** 2/7, 2/21

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

Requires the Department of Veterans' Affairs (ODVA) to administer two grant programs to support existing, and establish anew, veterans resource centers and coordinators on college campuses, without duplicating the functions of county Veterans Service Officers, and appropriates 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 solicit and receive funds from alternative sources. Declares emergency, effective July 1, 2017.

*FISCAL: May have fiscal impact, but no statement yet issued*

*REVENUE: No revenue impact*

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Value of on-campus space and personnel dedicated to veteran-students
- Existing range of efforts at a number of campuses

**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 obviously, with a certain perspective that only comes from having served in the armed forces. On-campus resource centers are tailored to help veterans succeed, help veterans connect to other veterans, and help ground them within the broader collegiate environment.

Senate Bill 143 appropriates General Fund dollars to the Department of Veterans Affairs, to support existing veterans resource centers and coordinators on college campuses, and to establish new ones.