

SB 143 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Carrier: Sen. Monnes Anderson

Senate Committee On Veterans and Emergency Preparedness

Action Date: 04/04/17

Action: Do pass with amendments and requesting subsequent referral to Ways and Means be rescinded. (Printed A-Eng.)

Vote: 4-0-0-0

Yeas: 4 - Boquist, Monnes Anderson, Olsen, President Courtney

Fiscal: Has minimal fiscal impact

Revenue: No revenue impact

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WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Requires Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs (ODVA) Advisory Committee to advise Legislative Assembly by February 1, 2018, on 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*.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

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

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

Replaces measure.

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 Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs (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.