

SB 143 B STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Veterans and Emergency Preparedness

Action Date: 06/01/17

Action: Do pass with amendments to the A-Eng bill, and be referred to Ways and Means. (Printed B-Eng).

Vote: 7-0-1-0

Yeas: 7 - Esquivel, Evans, Lewis, Lively, Meek, Parrish, Post

Exc: 1 - Boone

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: No revenue impact

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WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Directs Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs (ODVA) to administer competitive grant programs as specified beginning July 1, 2017, to augment campus veteran resource centers at community colleges and public universities. Appropriates \$1.1 million from Veterans Services Fund to ODVA for this purpose and limits administrative costs to ten percent of that amount. Describes allowable and prohibited uses of funds. Requires grant recipients to report quarterly to ODVA as specified. Directs ODVA to adopt specific rules and report to the legislature by August 31, 2018. Directs ODVA Advisory Committee to review grant programs, quarterly reports from recipients, and report prepared by ODVA, and report to the legislature by September 15, 2018. Sunsets January 2, 2020. Takes effect 91st day following adjournment *sine die*.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Process of amendment
- Appropriations from General Fund versus Veteran Services Fund (Ballot Measure 96)

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

Replaces the 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 B appropriates \$1.1 million from the Veterans Services Fund to the Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs to develop and implement one or more competitive grant programs and make awards to community colleges and public universities that support and expand veteran resource centers on their campuses.