

**Enrolled**  
**Senate Bill 80**

Printed pursuant to Senate Interim Rule 213.28 by order of the President of the Senate in conformance with pre-session filing rules, indicating neither advocacy nor opposition on the part of the President (at the request of Governor Kate Brown for Department of Veterans' Affairs)

CHAPTER .....

AN ACT

Relating to assistance to veterans who are members of federally recognized Indian tribes.

Whereas the nine federally recognized Indian tribes in Oregon are the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Indian Reservation, Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, Burns-Paiute Tribe, Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians of Oregon, Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde, Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Indians, Confederated Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Tribes, Klamath Tribe and Coquille Tribe; and

Whereas throughout America's history to the present day, Native Americans have served and continue to serve in the United States armed services at a higher rate than any other ethnic group; and

Whereas during World War II, the entire population of Native Americans in the United States was less than 350,000, of which 44,000 served in the armed services; and

Whereas more than 22,000 Native Americans have served since September 11, 2001, or are currently serving in Operation Iraqi Freedom (Iraq) or Operation Enduring Freedom (Afghanistan); and

Whereas Native Americans have a higher concentration of active female service members than any other ethnic group, and female service members account for 20 percent of active Native American service members, compared to 15 percent for all other ethnic groups; and

Whereas according to the 2010 federal decennial census, the estimated population of Native Americans in Oregon is 109,223, the population of Native American veterans in Oregon as of 2014 is 3,856 and veterans constitute approximately 3.5 percent of all Native Americans in Oregon; and

Whereas the Department of Veterans' Affairs and the federally recognized Indian tribes in Oregon have forged a partnership to assist Native American veterans; and

Whereas the State of Oregon and the Department of Veterans' Affairs recognize and honor the service and sacrifice of Native American veterans; now, therefore,

**Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:**

**SECTION 1. (1) In recognition and honor of the service and sacrifice of Oregon veterans who are Native Americans, the Director of Veterans' Affairs shall provide aid and assistance to federally recognized Indian tribes in Oregon with regard to:**

**(a) Programs of service for Native American veterans overseen by the tribes; and**

**(b) Accreditation of tribal veterans representatives by the Office of General Counsel in the United States Department of Veterans Affairs.**

**(2) Prior to providing aid and assistance under subsection (1) of this section, the director shall ensure that employees, agents and representatives of the Department of Veterans' Af-**

fairs who provide aid and assistance to a tribe consult with appropriate officials and members of the tribe as to the needs of Native American veterans within the tribe, and approach the provision of aid and assistance to the tribe with an understanding of cultural values and practices regarding Native American veterans who are members of the tribe.

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Passed by Senate March 28, 2017

Received by Governor:

Repassed by Senate June 6, 2017

.....M,....., 2017

Approved:

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Lori L. Brocker, Secretary of Senate

.....M,....., 2017

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Peter Courtney, President of Senate

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Kate Brown, Governor

Passed by House June 1, 2017

Filed in Office of Secretary of State:

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Tina Kotek, Speaker of House

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Dennis Richardson, Secretary of State