

Senate Bill 832

Sponsored by Senators MONNES ANDERSON, OLSEN; Senator BOQUIST, Representatives EVANS, LIVELY, PARRISH

SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced**.

Directs Department of Veterans' Affairs, in collaboration with Office of Rural Health, to establish program to provide grants to qualified nonprofit organizations to provide services to veterans and veterans' families in rural areas of this state.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

Relating to provision of veteran services in rural areas of this state.

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

SECTION 1. (1) The Department of Veterans' Affairs, in collaboration with the Office of Rural Health, shall establish a program to provide grants to qualified nonprofit organizations for the provision of services to veterans and veterans' families in the rural areas of this state.

(2) The department shall implement the program established under subsection (1) of this section by issuing requests for proposals from nonprofit organizations. The requests for proposals must require that applicant nonprofit organizations demonstrate the ability and experience to provide services that:

(a) Increase access to health care for veterans;

(b) Assist veterans in applying for and receiving benefits and entitlements that are available to veterans and veterans' families;

(c) Provide housing assistance;

(d) Provide access to transportation; and

(e) Assist veterans who are involved in the criminal and civil justice systems.

(3) The department shall adopt rules for the implementation and administration of the program established under subsection (1) of this section. At a minimum, the rules must specify the following:

(a) The qualifications a nonprofit organization must demonstrate in order to be eligible to apply for a grant under the program; and

(b) The definition of "rural areas of this state" for purposes of the program.

NOTE: Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter [*italic and bracketed*] is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.