

Requested by Representative EVANS

**PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO
A-ENGROSSED SENATE BILL 143**

1 In line 2 of the printed A-engrossed bill, after the semicolon delete the
2 rest of the line and insert “and declaring an emergency.

3 “Whereas in fiscal year 2015, expenditures by the United States Depart-
4 ment of Veterans Affairs for Oregon veterans and their families totaled \$2.6
5 billion; and

6 “Whereas in fiscal year 2015, almost 13,500 Oregon veterans received more
7 than \$145.9 million in education benefits from the United States Department
8 of Veterans Affairs that included financial resources in support of attending
9 community colleges, universities and certification and training programs;
10 and

11 “Whereas one of the priorities in Oregon’s Higher Education Coordinat-
12 ing Commission 2016-2020 Strategic Plan is to focus on outcomes that pro-
13 mote life successes; and

14 “Whereas the purpose of a campus veterans program is to provide re-
15 sources to help veterans transition from the military into the community
16 college or university experience, complete their certificate or degree program
17 and transition into the workforce and community; and

18 “Whereas there are currently campus veteran resource centers and cam-
19 pus veteran coordinators at community colleges and universities in Oregon
20 that provide a place for veterans to connect with other veterans, study, net-
21 work, connect with local, state, county and federal resources and obtain help

1 and support from campus veteran coordinators; and

2 “Whereas a strong veterans program on a community college or univer-
3 sity campus can help attract and retain veterans and provide assistance to
4 complete their education, which will result in increasing and retaining fed-
5 eral educational funds for veterans; now, therefore,”.

6 Delete lines 4 through 13 and insert:

7 **“SECTION 1. (1) As used in this section:**

8 **“(a) ‘Community college’ has the meaning given that term in ORS**
9 **341.005.**

10 **“(b) ‘Public university’ means any institution established as a pub-**
11 **lic university under ORS 352.002.**

12 **“(c)(A) ‘Veteran’ has the meaning given that term in ORS 408.225.**

13 **“(B) ‘Veteran’ includes a disabled veteran as defined in ORS 408.225.**

14 **“(2) The Department of Veterans’ Affairs shall develop and imple-**
15 **ment one or more programs statewide to establish or expand campus**
16 **veteran resource centers and campus veteran resource coordinators**
17 **on the campuses of community colleges and public universities. The**
18 **purpose of the programs is to help veterans successfully transition**
19 **from military service to college life, succeed in college, complete edu-**
20 **cational goals and transition from college to the workforce and the**
21 **community.**

22 **“(3) The department shall implement programs under this section**
23 **by awarding grants to community colleges or public universities that:**

24 **“(a) Establish new, or expand and enhance existing, campus veteran**
25 **resource centers on campus premises;**

26 **“(b) Recruit and employ campus veteran resource coordinators who**
27 **can serve as liaisons to provide advocacy, understanding and resource**
28 **connections for veterans;**

29 **“(c) Attract veterans to enroll in and attend educational programs**
30 **at community colleges and public universities;**

1 “(d) Provide assistance, guidance and support to veterans in com-
2 pleting educational goals and objectives;

3 “(e) Provide resources to college administration, faculty and staff
4 to facilitate an understanding and appreciation of the strengths,
5 unique challenges and needs of veterans and their families;

6 “(f) Refer campus veterans to local county veterans’ service officers
7 appointed under ORS 408.410 who assist veterans in obtaining federal
8 and state veteran benefits;

9 “(g) Assist veterans in successfully transitioning to work and com-
10 munity life by connecting veterans with workforce and employment
11 resources; and

12 “(h) Provide resources and matching funds in an amount to be de-
13 termined by the department.

14 “(4) The department shall provide two types of grants to community
15 colleges and public universities under this section as follows:

16 “(a) Grants to campuses with existing campus veteran resource
17 centers and campus veteran resource coordinators for expansion and
18 enhancement including, but not limited to, training for campus vet-
19 eran coordinators, computer and other equipment and supplies, addi-
20 tional staff, veteran events, access to workforce and community
21 resources that were not previously available and meeting other iden-
22 tified needs for the successful and continued operation of the existing
23 centers and coordinators; and

24 “(b) Grants to campuses that do not currently have campus veteran
25 resource centers or campus veteran resource coordinators to establish
26 new centers and recruit and employ coordinators.

27 “(5) In addition to awarding grants, the department shall:

28 “(a) Create opportunities for campus veteran resource coordinators
29 to network with each other to share best practices, resources and
30 other relevant information;

1 **“(b) Provide training to campus veteran resource coordinators on**
2 **specific topics that will benefit veterans before, during and after col-**
3 **lege life; and**

4 **“(c) Provide technical assistance in establishing and maintaining**
5 **centers and coordinators on campuses.**

6 **“(6) Services and assistance provided through the campus veteran**
7 **resource centers and campus veteran resource coordinators may not**
8 **duplicate services provided by county veterans’ service officers ap-**
9 **pointed under ORS 408.410, as described in ORS 406.450, but may pro-**
10 **vide additional information and aid that is not available through**
11 **county veterans’ service officers.**

12 **“(7) The department may collaborate and work with the Higher**
13 **Education Coordinating Commission in developing and implementing**
14 **programs under this section.**

15 **“(8) The department may solicit and accept gifts, grants and do-**
16 **nations from public and private sources to further the purposes of this**
17 **section.**

18 **“(9) The department may adopt rules to implement the provisions**
19 **of this section.**

20 **“SECTION 2. In addition to and not in lieu of any other appropri-**
21 **ation, there is appropriated to the Department of Veterans’ Affairs,**
22 **for the biennium beginning July 1, 2017, out of the General Fund, the**
23 **amount of \$_____, which may be expended for the purposes of imple-**
24 **menting section 1 of this 2017 Act.**

25 **“SECTION 3. This 2017 Act being necessary for the immediate**
26 **preservation of the public peace, health and safety, an emergency is**
27 **declared to exist, and this 2017 Act takes effect July 1, 2017.”.**

28 _____