



## House Veterans and Emergency Preparedness Committee | February 6, 2018

### House Bill 4098: Oregon Apprenticeship Programs and Veterans

#### What the measure does

HB 4098 directs the Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs (ODVA) to prepare and distribute written materials to veterans about opportunities to work as an apprentice and to provide training on apprenticeship opportunities and Federal VA veteran apprenticeship benefits.

#### Veterans, Apprenticeship Programs, and Federal VA Educational Benefits

The Federal VA provides educational benefits for veterans, including the Post-9/11 GI Bill, Montgomery GI Bill and Vocational Rehabilitation GI Bill. In order for the veterans to use GI Bill benefits for an apprenticeship program, the program must be approved by a State Approving Agency (SAA) that is authorized by the Federal VA to approve educational programs for GI Bill purposes. In Oregon, the SAA is the Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC).

Veterans who qualify for educational benefits under the Post-9/11 GI Bill and who are in apprenticeship programs may receive a monthly housing allowance and books and supplies stipend. The housing allowance starts at approximately \$1,300 per month, and is reduced every six months and the veteran may also receive a books and supplies stipend of up to \$1,000 per year.

For all other GI Bill programs, the benefit is a monthly rate based on years of enlistment.

The Vocational Rehabilitation GI Bill also provides a housing allowance, but also pays for necessary tools.

#### Materials on Apprenticeship Training

Currently, ODVA provides information to veterans on its website page on benefits <http://www.oregon.gov/ODVA/Benefits/Pages/default.aspx> and through the Veteran's Benefit Magazine, which is an annual publication and also found online at [https://issuu.com/odva/docs/veteran\\_benefit\\_magazine\\_2017\\_web](https://issuu.com/odva/docs/veteran_benefit_magazine_2017_web)

Under this bill, ODVA will work with stakeholders, including the Building Trades Council, Pacific Northwest Regional Council of Carpenters, BOLI and HECC to develop more robust materials that would describe both approved apprenticeship programs and veterans educational benefits.

#### Distribution of Materials on Apprenticeship Training

ODVA would distribute materials to county veteran service officers, through the Employment Department, Military Department, Oregon National Guard, and veterans' organizations.

In addition, ODVA will provide annual training to county veteran service officers and veterans' organizations regarding apprenticeship programs and federal and state veterans' education benefits.

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