

House Bill 4040

Introduced and printed pursuant to House Rule 12.00. Pre-session filed (at the request of House Interim Committee on Veterans and Emergency Preparedness)

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 Oregon Military Department to establish program to award scholarships to certain persons who have served in military. Establishes Oregon Military Families Education and Workforce Preparedness Scholarship Advisory Committee to review applications for scholarships.

Establishes Oregon Military Education and Workforce Preparedness Scholarship Program Fund in State Treasury. Directs transfer of moneys from Veterans' Services Fund to Oregon Military Education and Workforce Preparedness Scholarship Program Fund for biennium beginning July 1, 2019.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1
2 Relating to scholarships for persons who have served in the military.

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

4 **SECTION 1. (1) The Oregon Military Families Education and Workforce Preparedness**
5 **Scholarship Advisory Committee is established in the Oregon Military Department to review**
6 **and approve applications for scholarships awarded under section 2 of this 2018 Act. The**
7 **committee consists of at least seven members appointed by the Governor as follows:**

8 (a) **At least three members appointed in consultation with the Oregon Military Depart-**
9 **ment.**

10 (b) **At least two members appointed in consultation with the Department of Veterans'**
11 **Affairs.**

12 (c) **At least one representative of an organization providing support services to**
13 **servicemembers and families of servicemembers in this state.**

14 (d) **At least one public member who is not an employee of a public body, as defined in**
15 **ORS 174.109.**

16 (2) **Members of the committee shall be appointed to serve for terms of four years, but a**
17 **member serves at the pleasure of the Governor. The Governor shall appoint a person to fill**
18 **any vacancy on the committee for the expired term.**

19 (3) **The members of the committee shall appoint a chairperson from among the members**
20 **of the committee.**

21 (4) **A majority of the members of the committee constitutes a quorum for the transaction**
22 **of business.**

23 (5) **The committee shall meet at the call of the chairperson or upon the request of a**
24 **majority of the members of the committee. The committee may meet by phone or video**
25 **conference with at least 24 hours' public notice.**

26 (6) **The Oregon Military Department shall provide administrative support to the com-**
27 **mittee.**

28 (7) **Members of the committee are not entitled to compensation or reimbursement for**

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.

1 expenses and serve as volunteers on the committee.

2 **SECTION 2. (1) As used in this section:**

3 (a) "Armed Forces of the United States" means:

4 (A) The Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps and Coast Guard of the United States;

5 (B) The reserves of the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps and Coast Guard of the
6 United States; and

7 (C) The Oregon National Guard and a National Guard of any other state or territory.

8 (b) "Post-secondary institution of education" means:

9 (A) A community college operated under ORS chapter 341;

10 (B) A public university listed in ORS 352.002 or the Oregon Health and Science University;

11 or

12 (C) A generally accredited, private institution of higher education located in Oregon.

13 (c)(A) "Veteran" means a person who:

14 (i) Served on active duty with the Armed Forces of the United States:

15 (I) For a period of more than 90 consecutive days beginning on or before January 31, 1955,
16 and was discharged or released under honorable conditions;

17 (II) For a period of more than 178 consecutive days beginning after January 31, 1955, and
18 was discharged or released from active duty under honorable conditions;

19 (III) For 178 days or less and was discharged or released from active duty under honor-
20 able conditions because of a service-connected disability;

21 (IV) For 178 days or less and was discharged or released from active duty under honor-
22 able conditions and has a disability rating from the United States Department of Veterans
23 Affairs; or

24 (V) For at least one day in a combat zone and was discharged or released from active
25 duty under honorable conditions;

26 (ii) Received a combat or campaign ribbon or an expeditionary medal for service in the
27 Armed Forces of the United States and was discharged or released from active duty under
28 honorable conditions;

29 (iii) Is receiving a nonservice-connected pension from the United States Department of
30 Veterans Affairs; or

31 (iv) Is a member of the Oregon National Guard, available for deployment and in good
32 standing, as determined by the Oregon Military Department by rule.

33 (B) As used in this paragraph, "active duty" does not include attendance at a school un-
34 der military orders, except schooling incident to an active enlistment or a regular tour of
35 duty, or normal military training as a reserve officer or member of an organized reserve or
36 a National Guard unit.

37 (2) The department shall establish a program to award scholarships to veterans who are
38 residents of this state and who are pursuing and enrolled in an approved course of study,
39 approved professional training, approved workforce development program or approved ap-
40 prenticeship in, or in connection with, a post-secondary institution of education.

41 (3) The department shall establish a process allowing veterans to apply for scholarships
42 from the program.

43 (4) The department may award scholarships from the program to applicants approved by
44 the Oregon Military Families Education and Workforce Preparedness Scholarship Advisory
45 Committee established in section 1 of this 2018 Act to the extent of the funds available in the

1 Oregon Military Education and Workforce Preparedness Scholarship Program Fund estab-
2 lished in section 3 of this 2018 Act.

3 (5) A scholarship awarded to a veteran under this section may not exceed \$2,500 per ac-
4 ademic year.

5 (6) The department may adopt rules as necessary to implement this section.

6 **SECTION 3.** (1) There is established in the State Treasury, separate and distinct from the
7 General Fund, the Oregon Military Education and Workforce Preparedness Scholarship Pro-
8 gram Fund. Interest earned by the Oregon Military Education and Workforce Preparedness
9 Scholarship Program Fund shall be credited to the fund. The fund shall consist of:

10 (a) Amounts transferred to the fund under section 4 of this 2018 Act.

11 (b) Gifts, grants and donations, in money or otherwise, for use as described in subsection
12 (2) of this section.

13 (2)(a) Moneys in the fund are continuously appropriated to the Oregon Military Depart-
14 ment for the purposes of implementing the provisions of section 2 of this 2018 Act.

15 (b) The department may use up to five percent of the moneys in the fund to pay the ad-
16 ministrative expenses of implementing the provisions of section 2 of this 2018 Act.

17 **SECTION 4.** There is allocated for the biennium beginning July 1, 2019, from the
18 Veterans' Services Fund established in ORS 406.140, to the Oregon Military Department, for
19 deposit in the Oregon Military Education and Workforce Preparedness Scholarship Program
20 Fund established in section 3 of this 2018 Act, the lesser of:

21 (1) \$250,000; or

22 (2) The moneys in the Veterans' Services Fund that have not been allocated for other
23 specific purposes.

24 **SECTION 5.** Notwithstanding the term of office specified by section 1 of this 2018 Act,
25 of the members first appointed to the Oregon Military Families Education and Workforce
26 Preparedness Scholarship Advisory Committee:

27 (1) At least two members shall serve for a term ending January 1, 2021.

28 (2) At least two members shall serve for a term ending January 1, 2022.

29 (3) At least three members shall serve for a term ending January 1, 2023.

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