

DRAFT

SUMMARY

Directs Department of Veterans' Affairs to develop and implement grant program to provide funding to Oregon counties for veterans' courts.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

Relating to veterans' courts.

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

SECTION 1. (1) The Department of Veterans' Affairs shall develop and implement a grant program to provide funding to Oregon counties to:

(a) Support the operation of existing veterans' courts; and

(b) Support the implementation of veterans' courts in counties that do not offer veterans' courts.

(2) To be eligible for a grant under the program, a county must commit to providing local resources or funding for veterans' courts at a level or in amounts determined by the department by rule.

(3) The minimum amount of a grant under the program is \$25,000 per biennium. The maximum amount is \$100,000 per biennium.

(4) Under the grant program, counties may submit proposals to the department that describe the counties' need for grant funding and proposed uses for grant funding. The department shall award grants to counties on a competitive basis, with the goal of maximizing the number of veterans who have access to veterans' courts.

(5) The department shall consult with the Advisory Committee established under ORS 406.210 in determining which grant proposals to

1 fund and in what amounts.

2 (6) Before grant funding is disbursed to a grant recipient, the de-
3 partment shall enter into a written grant agreement with the recipi-
4 ent. The grant agreement must:

5 (a) Set forth permissible uses for the grant funding;

6 (b) Require the recipient to provide local resources or funding for
7 veterans' courts; and

8 (c) Require the recipient to report to the department on the ex-
9 penditure of the grant funding, at intervals and for a period that the
10 department deems necessary to ensure that grant funding is expended
11 for permissible purposes.

12 (7) The department may solicit and accept gifts, grants and do-
13 nations from public and private sources to further the purposes of this
14 section.

15 (8) The department may adopt rules as necessary or convenient to
16 implement the provisions of this section.

17 (9) As used in this section, "veterans' court" means a specialized
18 court or court program for defendants who are military veterans.