

**HB 2825 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**

**House Committee On Veterans and Emergency Preparedness**

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**Prepared By:** Patrick Brennan, LPRO Analyst

**Sub-Referral To:** Joint Committee On Ways and Means

**Meeting Dates:** 3/12

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

Establishes the Oregon Educational and Workforce Development Bridge Loan Program within the Department of Veterans' Affairs to conduct outreach and to provide forgivable loans to veterans and disabled veterans who are enrolled in an approved course of study, approved professional training, approved workforce development program, or approved apprenticeship in connection with an institution of higher education, and who are eligible to receive federal educational aid or other financial assistance that is temporarily unavailable. Establishes the Oregon Education and Workforce Development Bridge Loan Program Fund. Authorizes the Director of Veterans' Affairs to use moneys in the Veterans' Educational Aid Account for purposes of program.

**NOTE - measure has subsequent referral to the Committee on Ways and Means**

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

**EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:**

No amendment.

**BACKGROUND:**

There are a number of federal and state programs to assist veterans in furthering their education, either within the university system, professional training, or apprenticeship programs. However, even with multiple programs, there are times when a veteran may not currently qualify for any assistance, leaving them unable to continue their educational training. House Bill 2825 creates a bridge loan program to provide assistance to veterans who do not currently qualify for aid, or for whom the aid they qualify for is currently unavailable.