

A-Engrossed
House Bill 2200

Ordered by the House April 12
Including House Amendments dated April 12

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.

[Directs Department of Veterans' Affairs to study and make recommendations regarding improvements to operations of department. Requires department to submit report on findings by January 1, 2021.]

Directs Department of Veterans' Affairs to develop and administer loan program to provide loans to individuals who have certain pending claims with federal Department of Veterans Affairs. Requires Department of Veterans' Affairs to enter into agreements with county veterans' service officers to receive and review applications for loans.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1
2 Relating to veterans.

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

4 **SECTION 1. (1) The Department of Veterans' Affairs shall develop and administer a re-**
5 **volving loan program, as described in this section, to provide loans to individuals who have**
6 **pending claims with the federal Department of Veterans Affairs.**

7 **(2) The Department of Veterans' Affairs shall enter into agreements with county**
8 **veterans' service officers to receive and review applications for loans under the program.**
9 **The Department of Veterans' Affairs may prescribe forms and other materials for use by**
10 **county veterans' service officers in receiving and reviewing applications. A county veterans'**
11 **service officer may approve an application only if the application meets the criteria set forth**
12 **in subsection (3) of this section.**

13 **(3) A county veterans' service officer may approve a loan application, and the Depart-**
14 **ment of Veterans' Affairs may make a loan, only if:**

15 **(a) The applicant demonstrates a need for the loan;**

16 **(b) The applicant has made a claim that is pending approval with the federal Department**
17 **of Veterans Affairs for payment of:**

18 **(A) Reimbursements for emergency medical care;**

19 **(B) Educational benefits;**

20 **(C) Disability benefits; or**

21 **(D) Aid and attendance or housebound benefits; and**

22 **(c) The county veterans' service officer determines, based on documentation provided by**
23 **the applicant, that the applicant's pending claim is prima facie valid.**

24 **(4) If a county veterans' service officer approves a loan application, the Department of**
25 **Veterans' Affairs may make a loan to the applicant if the applicant gives a promissory note**

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 for the loan amount. The note:

2 (a) Must have a principal amount of \$5,000 or less;

3 (b) May not carry interest; and

4 (c) Must be payable on a date certain, subject to extension as provided in subsection (5)
5 of this section.

6 (5) If, at the time repayment becomes due on a loan under the program, the recipient's
7 claim with the federal Department of Veterans Affairs remains pending and the recipient
8 continues to meet the eligibility criteria set forth in subsection (3) of this section, the De-
9 partment of Veterans' Affairs shall extend the due date for repayment.

10 (6) The Department of Veterans' Affairs shall disburse loans within three business days
11 after a promissory note is signed.

12 (7) The Department of Veterans' Affairs shall adopt rules to administer and implement
13 the provisions of this section.

14 (8) As used in this section, "county veterans' service officer" means a service officer
15 appointed under ORS 408.410.

16 **SECTION 2.** The Veterans' Loan Fund is established in the State Treasury, separate and
17 distinct from the General Fund. Interest earned by the Veterans' Loan Fund must be
18 credited to the fund. The fund consists of moneys deposited in the fund under section 3 of
19 this 2019 Act and may include moneys appropriated, allocated, deposited or transferred to the
20 fund by the Legislative Assembly or otherwise and interest earned on moneys in the fund.
21 The moneys in the fund are continuously appropriated to the Department of Veterans' Af-
22 fairs for the purposes specified in section 1 of this 2019 Act.

23 **SECTION 3.** There is allocated for the biennium beginning July 1, 2019, from the
24 Veterans' Services Fund established under ORS 406.140, to the Department of Veterans' Af-
25 fairs, the amount of \$500,000 for deposit in the Veterans' Loan Fund established under sec-
26 tion 2 of this 2019 Act.

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