

# Senate Bill 243

Sponsored by Senator KNOPP (at the request of Jeff Wilcox) (Pre-session filed.)

## 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**.

Requires Department of Veterans' Affairs to conduct study to determine effects of employment discrimination against veterans on overall veteran unemployment rate in this state. Requires department to evaluate information gathered and make findings and recommendations including, but not limited to, training and outreach to provide job-related assistance to veterans.

Requires department to report findings and recommendations for legislation to interim committees of Legislative Assembly related to veterans no later than September 15, 2020.

Sunsets on December 31, 2020.

Declares emergency, effective on passage.

## A BILL FOR AN ACT

1  
2 Relating to study of effects of employment discrimination on overall veteran unemployment rate; and  
3 declaring an emergency.

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

5 **SECTION 1. (1) The Department of Veterans' Affairs shall determine the effects of em-**  
6 **ployment discrimination against veterans on the overall veteran unemployment rate in this**  
7 **state. The department shall make this determination by conducting a study that includes:**

8 (a) **Surveying state agencies and other public bodies regarding veteran recruitment**  
9 **practices and data related to veteran employment; and**

10 (b) **Surveying veterans regarding any personal challenges experienced during a job appli-**  
11 **cation or interview process with a state agency or other public body.**

12 (2) **The department shall evaluate the information gathered from surveys or from any**  
13 **other sources to determine whether:**

14 (a) **State agencies or other public bodies are complying with federal and state laws that**  
15 **provide employment protections for veterans;**

16 (b) **There is a particular veteran status that accounts for the highest number of unem-**  
17 **ployed veterans; and**

18 (c) **Veterans have appropriate access to organizations that provide veterans with job-**  
19 **related assistance.**

20 (3) **Upon completion of the study, the department shall prepare written findings and**  
21 **recommendations that may include, but need not be limited to:**

22 (a) **Training to educate state agencies and other public bodies on how to:**

23 (A) **Reduce stigma and other biases toward veterans that may lead to unlawful employ-**  
24 **ment discrimination; and**

25 (B) **Address gaps in understanding the obligations of state agencies and other public**  
26 **bodies regarding veteran employment preferences and protections provided under federal and**  
27 **state law;**

28 (b) **Collaborating with the Oregon Military Department and community organizations to**

**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 **conduct outreach to provide job-related assistance to veterans in this state; and**

2 **(c) Developing a brochure for veterans that provides information on how to access re-**  
3 **sources designed to help veterans find work.**

4 **(4) No later than September 15, 2020, the Department of Veterans' Affairs shall report**  
5 **to the interim committees of the Legislative Assembly related to veterans on the findings**  
6 **of the department's study, including any recommendations for legislation. The department**  
7 **shall report in the manner provided by ORS 192.245.**

8 **(5) As used in this section:**

9 **(a) "Public body" has the meaning given that term in ORS 174.109.**

10 **(b) "State agency" means an agency of the executive department as defined in ORS**  
11 **174.112.**

12 **(c) "Veteran" has the meaning given that term in ORS 408.225.**

13 **SECTION 2. Section 1 of this 2019 Act is repealed December 31, 2020.**

14 **SECTION 3. This 2019 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public**  
15 **peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2019 Act takes effect**  
16 **on its passage.**

17