

A-Engrossed House Bill 4066

Ordered by the House February 14
Including House Amendments dated February 14

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

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.

Provides that **public employer may require** veteran [*must*] to provide evidence of eligibility for veterans' preference in public employment at time of application for civil service position. Provides that evidence may include any documentation demonstrating preference eligibility.

Modifies law relating to interviews of veterans for vacant civil service positions. Provides that public employer that does not interview veteran must provide written explanation of reasons for decision.

[Permits disabled veteran or surviving spouse of deceased disabled veteran to use state park, individual campsite or day use fee area without charge.]

[Directs Department of Veterans' Affairs to develop and implement programs that assist veterans to transition from military service to workforce or business community. Permits use of moneys in Veterans' Services Fund to develop, implement and maintain programs.]

[Directs department to develop and implement programs that assist veterans to transition into or maintain stable housing. Permits use of moneys in Veterans' Services Fund to develop, implement and maintain programs.]

[Requires department to report to Legislative Assembly regarding status of workforce and housing grant programs by September 15, 2024.]

Repeals sunset on Veteran Educational Bridge Grant Program.

[Exempts members of Oregon National Guard from Oregon Promise eligibility requirement that applicant first accept federal aid grants available to person.]

[Provides 100 percent property tax exemption for homestead or personal property of veteran aged 65 years or older with service-connected disabilities of 100 percent or more or surviving spouse of veteran who died from service-connected injury or illness or received at least one year of 100 percent exemption.]

[Repeals partial exemption for homestead of surviving spouse of veteran of American Civil War or Spanish-American War.]

Designates portion of U.S. Highway 30 as Oregon Veterans Memorial Highway.

Takes effect on 91st day following adjournment sine die.

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A BILL FOR AN ACT

Relating to military service members; creating new provisions; amending ORS 366.924, 408.090, 408.235 and 408.237; repealing sections 6 and 8, chapter 527, Oregon Laws 2019; and prescribing an effective date.

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

PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT PREFERENCE

SECTION 1. ORS 408.235 is amended to read:

408.235. (1) A veteran is eligible to use the preference provided for in ORS 408.230 for a civil service position for which application is made at any time after discharge or release from service in the Armed Forces.

(2) An individual is treated as a veteran for purposes of the preference provided for in ORS

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.

1 408.230 if the individual:

2 (a) Meets the definition of “veteran” under ORS 408.225 except for the requirement that the
3 individual was discharged or released under honorable conditions; and

4 (b) Submits a certification to the public employer that the individual is expected to be dis-
5 charged or released from active duty under honorable conditions not later than 120 days after the
6 submission of the certification.

7 (3) An individual is treated as a disabled veteran for purposes of the preference provided for in
8 ORS 408.230 if the individual:

9 (a) Meets the definition of “veteran” under ORS 408.225 except for the requirement that the
10 individual was discharged or released under honorable conditions; and

11 (b) Submits a certification to the public employer that the individual is expected to be medically
12 separated from active duty under honorable conditions not later than 120 days after the submission
13 of the certification.

14 **(4) A public employer may require a veteran to provide evidence of eligibility for the**
15 **preference at the time the veteran makes application for the position. In addition to any**
16 **certification that may be required under subsection (2) or (3) of this section, a veteran may**
17 **include as evidence federal DD Form 214 or 215 or any other documentation demonstrating**
18 **preference eligibility. If evidence is required by the public employer under this subsection,**
19 **failure by the veteran to provide evidence at the time of application will disqualify the vet-**
20 **eran from requesting use of the preference in the public employer’s consideration of the**
21 **veteran’s application for the position.**

22 **SECTION 2.** ORS 408.237 is amended to read:

23 408.237. (1) As used in this section:

24 (a) “Eligibility list” means a list of ranked eligible candidates for a civil service position who
25 have become eligible for the position through a test or series of tests and who will be considered
26 for the civil service position in ranked order.

27 (b) “Transferable skill” means a skill that a veteran has obtained through military education or
28 experience that substantially relates, directly or indirectly, to the civil service position for which
29 the veteran is applying.

30 (2) When an interview is a component of the selection process for a civil service position or for
31 an eligibility list for a civil service position, a public employer shall interview each veteran:

32 (a) Whom the public employer determines meets the minimum qualifications and special quali-
33 fications for the civil service position or eligibility list; and

34 (b) Who submits application materials that the public employer determines show sufficient evi-
35 dence that the veteran has the transferable skills required and requested by the public employer for
36 the civil service position or eligibility list.

37 *[(3) A public employer is not required to comply with subsection (2) of this section if the employer*
38 *conducts interviews only as part of the process of selecting a candidate for a civil service position from*
39 *an eligibility list.]*

40 **(3) If a public employer does not interview a veteran who applies for a civil service posi-**
41 **tion, the public employer shall, within 14 days of the decision not to interview the veteran,**
42 **provide to the veteran a written explanation of the employer’s reasons for the decision not**
43 **to interview the veteran.**

44 (4) A public employer may consult with the Oregon Military Department and the Department
45 of Veterans’ Affairs to determine whether certain military education or experience produces a

1 transferable skill.

2 (5) The Department of Veterans' Affairs shall provide training to veterans on how to show evi-
3 dence of transferable skills in an application for a civil service position or eligibility list.

4 (6) Violation of subsection (2) of this section is an unlawful employment practice under ORS
5 chapter 659A.

6 (7) A veteran claiming to be aggrieved by a violation of subsection (2) of this section may file
7 a complaint under ORS 659A.820.

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9 **VETERAN EDUCATIONAL BRIDGE GRANT PROGRAM**

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11 **SECTION 3.** (1) **Section 6, chapter 527, Oregon Laws 2019, as amended by section 1,**
12 **chapter 678, Oregon Laws 2021, is repealed.**

13 (2) **Section 8, chapter 527, Oregon Laws 2019, as amended by section 2, chapter 678,**
14 **Oregon Laws 2021, is repealed.**

15 **SECTION 4.** ORS 408.090, as amended by section 7, chapter 527, Oregon Laws 2019, is amended
16 to read:

17 408.090. (1) The Director of Veterans' Affairs, acting on behalf of the State of Oregon, is au-
18 thorized to accept any donation, gift, grant, bequest or devise made in furtherance of the purposes
19 of ORS 408.010 to 408.090 **and section 1, chapter 527, Oregon Laws 2019.** A donation, gift, grant,
20 bequest or devise that is made in cash or its equivalent or reduced thereto, shall be promptly paid
21 by the director to the State Treasurer, who shall credit the amount so received to the Veterans'
22 Educational Aid Account in the General Fund. The director shall make such disposition of do-
23 nations, gifts, grants, bequests or devises, not made in cash or its equivalent, as is specified by the
24 donor thereof, and their earnings and proceeds shall inure to said account. All such donations, gifts,
25 grants, bequests or devises accepted by the director are transfers exempt from taxes imposed on
26 inheritances under the laws of this state.

27 (2) All moneys in the Veterans' Educational Aid Account are continuously appropriated to the
28 director and may be used by the director for the purposes authorized in ORS 408.010 to 408.090 **and**
29 **section 1, chapter 527, Oregon Laws 2019.**

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31 **MEMORIAL HIGHWAYS**

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33 **SECTION 5.** ORS 366.924 is amended to read:

34 366.924. (1) The portion of U.S. Highway 395, crossing the State of Oregon, beginning at the
35 California state line and ending at the Washington state line, shall also be known as the World War
36 I Veterans Memorial Highway.

37 (2) The portion of Interstate 5, crossing the State of Oregon, beginning at the California state
38 line and ending at the Washington state line, shall also be known as the Korean War Veterans
39 Memorial Highway, and as the Purple Heart Trail.

40 (3) The portion of Interstate 5, beginning in Albany and ending in Salem, shall also be known
41 as the Atomic Veterans and Atomic Cleanup Veterans Memorial Highway.

42 (4) The portion of U.S. Highway 101, crossing the State of Oregon, beginning at the California
43 state line and ending at the Washington state line, shall also be known as the Persian Gulf,
44 Afghanistan and Iraq Veterans Memorial Highway.

45 (5) The portion of U.S. Highway 26, beginning where the highway intersects with U.S. Highway

1 101 and ending at the Idaho state line, shall also be known as the POW/MIA Memorial Highway.

2 **(6) The portion of U.S. Highway 30, beginning where the highway intersects with U.S.**
3 **Highway 101 and ending at the Idaho state line, shall also be known as the Oregon Veterans**
4 **Memorial Highway.**

5 [(6)] (7) The Department of Transportation shall place and maintain suitable markers along each
6 highway described in this section to indicate the designation of each highway.

7 **(8) For new highway markers erected on U.S. Highway 30 pursuant to subsection (6) of**
8 **this section, the department shall seek approval from the Federal Highway Administration,**
9 **United States Department of Defense and United States Department of Homeland Security**
10 **to include military service seals on the markers. After receiving approval, the Department**
11 **of Transportation shall include on the markers military service seals representing:**

12 **(a) The Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps and Coast Guard of the United States; and**

13 **(b) The National Guard.**

14 [(7)(a)] **(9)(a)** The department may accept moneys from and may enter into agreements with
15 veterans groups to create, install and maintain the markers.

16 (b) The department may not use public funds for the installation and maintenance of the mark-
17 ers.

18 **SECTION 6. The amendments to ORS 366.924 by section 5 of this 2022 Act apply to new**
19 **highway markers erected on U.S. Highway 30 on or after the effective date of this 2022 Act.**

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21 **UNIT CAPTIONS**

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23 **SECTION 7. The unit captions used in this 2022 Act are provided only for the convenience**
24 **of the reader and do not become part of the statutory law of this state or express any leg-**
25 **islative intent in the enactment of this 2022 Act.**

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27 **EFFECTIVE DATE**

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29 **SECTION 8. This 2022 Act takes effect on the 91st day after the date on which the 2022**
30 **regular session of the Eighty-first Legislative Assembly adjourns sine die.**