

House Bill 4066

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 **as introduced**.

Provides that veteran must 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.

Takes effect on 91st day following adjournment sine die.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1
2 Relating to military service members; creating new provisions; amending ORS 307.250, 307.260,
3 307.270, 341.522, 390.124, 408.090, 408.235 and 408.237; repealing ORS 307.283 and sections 6 and
4 8, chapter 527, Oregon Laws 2019; and prescribing an effective date.

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

6 7 PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT PREFERENCE

8
9 **SECTION 1.** ORS 408.235 is amended to read:

10 408.235. (1) A veteran is eligible to use the preference provided for in ORS 408.230 for a civil
11 service position for which application is made at any time after discharge or release from service
12 in the Armed Forces.

13 (2) An individual is treated as a veteran for purposes of the preference provided for in ORS
14 408.230 if the individual:

15 (a) Meets the definition of "veteran" under ORS 408.225 except for the requirement that the
16 individual was discharged or released under honorable conditions; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

19 408.237. (1) As used in this section:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

40 (4) A public employer may consult with the Oregon Military Department and the Department
41 of Veterans’ Affairs to determine whether certain military education or experience produces a
42 transferable skill.

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

45 (6) Violation of subsection (2) of this section is an unlawful employment practice under ORS

1 chapter 659A.

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

4
5 **STATE PARK PASS**

6
7 **SECTION 3.** ORS 390.124 is amended to read:

8 390.124. (1) In accordance with any applicable provision of ORS chapter 183, the State Parks and
9 Recreation Commission may adopt rules necessary to carry out the duties, functions and powers
10 imposed by law upon the commission and the State Parks and Recreation Department. Rules adopted
11 pursuant to this section shall be duly entered in the minutes and records of the commission.

12 (2)(a) The commission may adopt by rule a schedule setting forth the range of reasonable
13 charges that may be assessed for the use of areas established and maintained by the department.
14 The range of user fees relating to recreational vehicles must be 25 percent greater for nonresidents
15 than for residents of this state.

16 (b) With the approval of the commission, the State Parks and Recreation Director may set, ad-
17 just and assess fees for the use of areas established and maintained by the department. Fees assessed
18 under this paragraph must be within the range of reasonable charges adopted by the commission
19 under paragraph (a) of this subsection. The director may adjust a fee under this paragraph no more
20 than four times per calendar year. The director may also adopt rules establishing reductions in
21 waivers of or exemption from the charges.

22 (c) Notwithstanding paragraphs (a) and (b) of this subsection, the commission shall authorize the
23 use of any state park, individual campsite or day use fee area without charge:

24 (A) Upon the showing of proper identification, by a person maintaining a foster home, as defined
25 by ORS 418.625, and the person’s children, when accompanied by a foster child residing in the home.

26 (B) Upon the showing of proper identification, by a person maintaining a developmental disa-
27 bility child foster home, as defined by ORS 443.830, and the person’s children, when accompanied
28 by a foster child residing in the home.

29 (C) If a deed to, lease of or contract to use the property used as a state park, campsite or day
30 use fee area prohibits the charging of fees for use of the property.

31 (D) Upon the showing of proper identification, by *[either a disabled veteran or]* a person on leave
32 from military active duty status on Memorial Day, Independence Day or Veterans Day.

33 **(E) Upon the showing of proper identification, by a disabled veteran or the surviving**
34 **spouse of a deceased disabled veteran.**

35 (3) The commission shall adopt any rules pursuant to ORS chapter 183 that the commission
36 considers necessary to carry out ORS 273.563 to 273.591.

37
38 **WORKFORCE GRANT PROGRAMS**

39
40 **SECTION 4. (1) As used in this section:**

41 **(a) “Veteran” has the meaning given that term in ORS 408.225.**

42 **(b) “Veteran” includes a disabled veteran as defined in ORS 408.225.**

43 **(2) The Department of Veterans’ Affairs shall develop and implement one or more pro-**
44 **grams for the purpose of assisting veterans to successfully transition from military service**
45 **to the workforce or business community. The programs shall award grants to entities that**

1 provide veterans with:

- 2 (a) Private training programs;
- 3 (b) Apprenticeship or employment placement services;
- 4 (c) Apprenticeship or training programs;
- 5 (d) Employment opportunities; or
- 6 (e) Technical support, financial assistance or business creation assistance.

7 (3) The department shall:

8 (a) Develop criteria for awarding grants to entities under this section.

9 (b) Ensure that an entity awarded a grant under this section that provides an appren-
10 ticeship or training program meets existing standards of apprenticeship and training ap-
11 proved by the State Apprenticeship and Training Council.

12 (c) Establish processes and procedures under which entities that are awarded grants
13 under this section may award assistance to veterans.

14 (4)(a) In developing a program under this section, the department shall consult with the
15 Bureau of Labor and Industries to ensure program standards are consistent with existing
16 standards of apprenticeship and training approved by the State Apprenticeship and Training
17 Council.

18 (b) The department may develop a program that focuses on a particular industry or
19 trade.

20 (5) The department may solicit and accept gifts, grants and donations from public and
21 private sources to further the purpose of this section.

22 (6) The department may use moneys in the Veterans' Services Fund established under
23 ORS 406.140 to develop, implement and maintain the programs under this section.

24 (7) The department may adopt rules to implement the provisions of this section.

25
26 **HOUSING GRANT PROGRAMS**

27
28 **SECTION 5. (1) As used in this section:**

29 (a) "Veteran" has the meaning given that term in ORS 408.225.

30 (b) "Veteran" includes a disabled veteran as defined in ORS 408.225.

31 (2) The Department of Veterans' Affairs shall develop and implement one or more pro-
32 grams for the purpose of assisting veterans to successfully transition into or maintain stable
33 housing. The programs shall award grants to entities that provide veterans with:

34 (a) Emergency, temporary or permanent housing placement or assistance;

35 (b) Housing construction, acquisition or rehabilitation assistance;

36 (c) Home payments, rents or utilities assistance; or

37 (d) Rental or homeownership training or education.

38 (3) The department shall:

39 (a) Develop criteria for awarding grants to entities under this section.

40 (b) Establish processes and procedures under which entities that are awarded grants
41 under this section may award assistance to veterans.

42 (4) In developing a program under this section, the department shall consult with the
43 Housing and Community Services Department.

44 (5) The Department of Veterans' Affairs may solicit and accept gifts, grants and do-
45 nations from public and private sources to further the purposes of this section.

1 (6) The department may use moneys in the Veterans' Services Fund established under
2 ORS 406.140 to develop, implement and maintain the programs under this section.

3 (7) The department may adopt rules to implement the provisions of this section.

4 **SECTION 6.** The Department of Veterans' Affairs shall prepare and submit a report to
5 the interim committees of the Legislative Assembly related to veterans' services on or before
6 September 15, 2024, regarding the status of programs developed and implemented under
7 sections 4 and 5 of this 2022 Act.

8
9 **VETERAN EDUCATIONAL BRIDGE GRANT PROGRAM**

10
11 **SECTION 7.** (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 8.** 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.**

30
31 **OREGON PROMISE PROGRAM**

32
33 **SECTION 9.** ORS 341.522 is amended to read:

34 341.522. (1) The Office of Student Access and Completion shall administer the Oregon Promise
35 program as provided by this section.

36 (2) Subject to subsections (7) to (10) of this section, the office shall provide a grant for commu-
37 nity college courses to a person who meets the criteria described in subsections (3) to (6) of this
38 section. The grant shall be limited as provided by subsections (7) to (10) of this section.

39 (3) A grant shall be awarded under this section to a person who meets the following criteria:

40 (a) Is enrolled in courses that are:

41 (A) Offered at a community college in this state; and

42 (B) Determined by the office, in accordance with rules adopted by the Higher Education Coor-
43 dinating Commission, to be required for completion of:

44 (i) A one-year curriculum for students who plan to transfer to another post-secondary institution
45 of education;

- 1 (ii) An associate degree; or
- 2 (iii) A program in career and technical education;
- 3 (b) Except as provided in subsection (5) of this section, has been a resident of this state for at
- 4 least 12 months prior to enrolling in the courses described in paragraph (a) of this subsection;
- 5 (c) Attained the person's highest level of education, except as provided in subsection (5) of this
- 6 section, in this state prior to:
- 7 (A) Receiving a diploma under ORS 329.451;
- 8 (B) Receiving a certificate for passing an approved high school equivalency test such as the
- 9 General Educational Development (GED) test as provided by ORS 350.175;
- 10 (C) Completing grade 12 in compliance with the requirements of ORS 339.035; or
- 11 (D) Completing grade 12 at a private or parochial school, as described in ORS 339.030 (1)(a);
- 12 (d) Except as provided in subsections (4) and (5) of this section, attained the person's highest
- 13 level of education as described in paragraph (c) of this subsection within six months from the date
- 14 that the person first enrolls in courses described in paragraph (a) of this subsection for the purpose
- 15 of receiving a grant under this section;
- 16 (e) Earned a cumulative grade point average of 2.5 or better in high school or otherwise dem-
- 17 onstrated an equivalent academic ability, as determined by the office according to rules adopted by
- 18 the commission;
- 19 (f) **Except as provided in subsection (5)(a) of this section**, completed and submitted the Free
- 20 Application for Federal Student Aid for each academic year and accepted all state and federal aid
- 21 grants available to the person, if eligible to file the application; and
- 22 (g) Has not completed either of the following:
- 23 (A) More than a total of 90 credit hours, or the equivalent, at a post-secondary institution of
- 24 education; or
- 25 (B) A curriculum, degree or program, as described in paragraph (a)(B) of this subsection.
- 26 (4)(a) If a person otherwise meets the required criteria and has been awarded a grant under
- 27 subsection (3) of this section, but the person enters into service with a career and technical student
- 28 organization relating to agriculture or farming that is approved by the Department of Education
- 29 under ORS 344.077 within six months after the person attained the person's highest level of educa-
- 30 tion as described in subsection (3)(c) of this section, the person will continue to be eligible to receive
- 31 the grant if the person first enrolls in courses described in subsection (3)(a) of this section within
- 32 six months of finishing the person's service with the career and technical student organization.
- 33 (b) In addition to the situation described in paragraph (a) of this subsection, the commission may
- 34 waive the requirement set forth in subsection (3)(d) of this section for a person who shows that the
- 35 person was unable to timely enroll in courses described in subsection (3)(a) of this section due to a
- 36 significant hardship. The commission may adopt rules to implement this paragraph.
- 37 (5)(a) A member of the Oregon National Guard who has completed initial active duty training
- 38 is not required to comply with the criteria set forth in subsection (3)(d) of this section **or to accept**
- 39 **federal aid grants available to the person as set forth in subsection (3)(f) of this section** in
- 40 order to receive a grant, provided that the member first enrolls in courses described in subsection
- 41 (3)(a) of this section within six months after completing initial active duty training, as evidenced by
- 42 an official form issued by the United States Department of Defense.
- 43 (b)(A) A person who completes the highest level of education as described in subsection (3)(c)
- 44 of this section while confined in a correctional facility, either serving a sentence of incarceration
- 45 or as a young person, youth or adjudicated youth, is not required to comply with the criteria set

1 forth in subsection (3)(d) of this section in order to receive a grant, provided that the person first
 2 enrolls in courses described in subsection (3)(a) of this section within six months after the date on
 3 which the person is first released from a correctional facility following completion of the highest
 4 level of education described in subsection (3)(c) of this section.

5 (B) The eligibility requirements described in subsection (6)(a)(C) of this section may be waived
 6 by the office according to rules adopted by the commission for a person who receives a grant under
 7 this section in the manner described in subparagraph (A) of this paragraph.

8 (C) As used in this paragraph:

9 (i) “Adjudicated youth,” “detention facility,” “young person” and “youth” have the meanings
 10 given those terms in ORS 419A.004.

11 (ii) “Correctional facility” means any place used for the confinement of young persons, youths
 12 or adjudicated youths or persons charged with or convicted of a crime or otherwise confined under
 13 a court order, including a:

14 (I) Youth correction facility;

15 (II) Detention facility;

16 (III) Department of Corrections institution;

17 (IV) Local correctional facility; or

18 (V) State hospital or a secure intensive community inpatient facility, with respect to persons
 19 detained therein who are youths or adjudicated youths, who are charged with or convicted of a
 20 crime or who are detained therein after having been found guilty except for insanity of a crime
 21 under ORS 161.290 to 161.373 or having been found responsible except for insanity under ORS
 22 419C.411.

23 (iii) “Department of Corrections institution” has the meaning given that term in ORS 421.005.

24 (iv) “Local correctional facility” has the meaning given that term in ORS 169.005.

25 (v) “Youth correction facility” has the meaning given that term in ORS 420.005.

26 (c)(A) If a person was a foster child:

27 (i) The person shall be treated as meeting the residency criteria for eligibility under subsection
 28 (3)(b) of this section if, but for the person’s placement in out-of-state foster care, the person other-
 29 wise meets the requirements of subsection (3)(b) of this section.

30 (ii) The person shall be treated as attaining the person’s highest level of education in this state
 31 under subsection (3)(c) of this section if the person attained the person’s highest level of education
 32 while placed in out-of-state foster care and the person’s highest level of education substantially
 33 meets the requirements under subsection (3)(c) of this section.

34 (iii) The person is not required to comply with the criteria set forth in subsection (3)(d) of this
 35 section in order to receive a grant provided that the person completes the highest level of education
 36 as described in subparagraph (A)(ii) of this paragraph while in a treatment program and the person
 37 first enrolls in courses described in subsection (3)(a) of this section within 12 months after the date
 38 on which the person is released from the treatment program.

39 (B) Upon request from the commission, the Department of Human Services shall provide doc-
 40 umentation of the placement status of a person described in paragraph (c)(A) of this subsection.

41 (C) As used in this paragraph:

42 (i) “Foster care” means substitute care for children placed by the Department of Human Ser-
 43 vices or a tribal child welfare agency away from the child’s parents and for whom the department
 44 or agency has placement and care responsibility, including placements in foster family homes, foster
 45 homes of relatives, group homes, emergency shelters, residential facilities, child care institutions and

1 preadoptive homes.

2 (ii) "Foster child" means a child over whom the Department of Human Services retained juris-
 3 diction under ORS 417.200 for the duration of the child's placement in foster care outside the State
 4 of Oregon.

5 (6)(a) A person continues to remain eligible to receive a grant under this section if the person,
 6 in addition to satisfying the criteria specified in subsection (3) of this section, meets the following
 7 criteria:

8 (A) Maintains at least the minimum cumulative grade point average prescribed by the commis-
 9 sion based on federal aid grant requirements;

10 (B) Makes satisfactory academic progress toward a curriculum, degree or program, as described
 11 in subsection (3)(a)(B) of this section, as prescribed by the commission based on federal aid grant
 12 requirements;

13 (C) Enrolls in courses described in subsection (3)(a) of this section for a sufficient number of
 14 credit hours to be considered at least a half-time student each term for at least three terms in each
 15 consecutive academic year; and

16 (D) Completes a first-year experience, as identified by the community college and reported by
 17 the community college to the commission.

18 (b) A person who fails to meet an eligibility requirement described in paragraph (a) of this
 19 subsection becomes ineligible to receive a grant under this section for the term after which the
 20 person fails to meet the eligibility requirement, unless the eligibility requirement is waived by the
 21 office according to rules adopted by the commission.

22 (7)(a) The total amount of a grant awarded under this section shall be based on each term that
 23 a person is enrolled in courses described in subsection (3)(a) of this section. Except as provided in
 24 subsections (9) and (10) of this section, after the amount of tuition for the person for the term is
 25 reduced by any amounts received by the person in state and federal aid grants, the person shall be
 26 eligible for a grant under this section in an amount that equals:

27 (A) Except as provided by paragraphs (b) and (c) of this subsection, not less than the greater
 28 of:

29 (i) \$1,000; and

30 (ii) The person's actual cost for tuition.

31 (B) Not more than the lesser of:

32 (i) The average cost of tuition at a community college in this state, as determined by the office;
 33 and

34 (ii) The person's actual cost for tuition.

35 (b) The amount of a grant, as calculated under paragraph (a) of this subsection, shall be reduced
 36 by \$50 for each term that the person receives a grant under this section.

37 (c)(A) If the office determines both that the person's actual cost for tuition exceeds the amount
 38 set forth in paragraph (a)(A)(i) of this subsection and that the person's actual cost for tuition ex-
 39 ceeds the average cost of tuition at a community college in this state, the person shall be eligible
 40 for a grant in an amount that equals the average cost of tuition at a community college in this state.

41 (B) If the office determines that the person's actual cost for tuition is less than the amount set
 42 forth in paragraph (a)(A)(i) of this subsection, the person shall be eligible for a grant in an amount
 43 that equals the amount set forth in paragraph (a)(A)(i) of this subsection.

44 (d) The minimum amount of a grant, as calculated under paragraphs (a) to (c) of this subsection,
 45 may be prorated for a person who is enrolled in courses described in subsection (3)(a) of this section

1 for a sufficient number of credit hours to be considered at least a half-time student but not a full-
 2 time student.

3 (e) The commission may prescribe by rule whether to include fees, and any limitations related
 4 to the inclusion of fees, when determining the actual cost of tuition or the average cost of tuition
 5 under this subsection.

6 (8) The commission may adopt by rule the priority by which grants are awarded, which may
 7 allow for preference to be given to persons enrolled in school districts or high schools that meet
 8 specified criteria.

9 (9) Prior to the start of the fall term of each academic year, the commission shall determine
 10 whether there are sufficient moneys to award a grant under this section to each person who meets
 11 the criteria described in subsections (3) to (6) of this section. On the basis of this determination the
 12 commission may:

13 (a) Limit eligibility to receive a grant under this section to a person whose family contribution,
 14 as determined by the commission by rule, is at or below the level the commission determines is
 15 necessary to allow the commission to operate the Oregon Promise program with available moneys;
 16 or

17 (b) Reduce or eliminate any limitation on eligibility previously imposed by the commission under
 18 paragraph (a) of this subsection.

19 (10)(a) If at any time the commission determines that there are insufficient moneys to provide
 20 a grant to each person who has been awarded a grant under this section, the commission may:

21 (A) Decrease the total amount of the grant awarded; or

22 (B) Increase the amount that a person must pay under subsection (7)(b) of this section for each
 23 term that the person receives a grant under this section.

24 (b) If at any time the commission determines that the amount of moneys available to operate the
 25 Oregon Promise program exceeds the amount determined under subsection (9) of this section, the
 26 commission may reduce or eliminate any limitation on eligibility to receive a grant under this sec-
 27 tion that was previously imposed by the commission under subsection (9)(a) of this section.

28 (c) The commission shall promptly notify the interim committees of the Legislative Assembly
 29 responsible for higher education each time the commission takes any action under paragraph (a) or
 30 (b) of this subsection.

31 (11) The commission shall adopt any rules necessary for the administration of this section, in-
 32 cluding any requirements related to:

33 (a) Specifying the form and timelines for submitting an application for a grant under this section;

34 (b) Determining whether a person is eligible for a grant under this section, including whether
 35 the person shall be given priority as allowed under subsection (8) of this section;

36 (c) Implementing programs or policies that improve the academic success or completion rates for
 37 persons who receive a grant under this section;

38 (d) Prescribing eligibility requirements and grant calculations for persons dually enrolled in a
 39 community college and a public university; and

40 (e) Evaluating the impact of the program established under this section, including any require-
 41 ments for reporting data needed for evaluations.

42 (12) No later than December 31 of each even-numbered year, the commission shall submit to an
 43 interim legislative committee related to education a report that summarizes the commission's
 44 findings on the impact of the program established under this section. The report shall include:

45 (a) Student completion rates of curricula, degrees and programs described in subsection (3)(a)(B)

1 of this section;

2 (b) The amount of federal aid grants received by persons who received a grant under this sec-
3 tion;

4 (c) The financial impact of the program on school districts that had students receive a grant
5 under this section;

6 (d) The financial impact and the enrollment impact of the program on community colleges and
7 public universities in this state; and

8 (e) The overall success rate of the program and financial impact of the program.
9

10 **PROPERTY TAX FORGIVENESS**

11
12 **SECTION 10. ORS 307.250, 307.260, 307.262, 307.270 and 307.280 are added to and made a**
13 **part of ORS 307.250 to 307.280.**

14 **SECTION 11.** ORS 307.250 is amended to read:

15 307.250. (1) As used in *[this section and ORS 307.260, 307.262 and 307.270,]* **ORS 307.250 to**
16 **307.280:**

17 (a) **“Surviving spouse of a veteran” means a veteran’s surviving spouse who has not re-**
18 **married.**

19 (b) “Veteran” has the meaning given that term in ORS 408.225.

20 (2) Upon compliance with ORS 307.260, there shall be exempt from taxation not to exceed
21 \$15,000 of the assessed value of the homestead or personal property of any of the following residents
22 of this state other than those described in subsection (3) **or (4)** of this section:

23 (a) Any veteran who is officially certified by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs
24 or any branch of the Armed Forces of the United States as having disabilities of 40 percent or more.

25 (b) Any veteran **who:**

26 (A) *[having]* **Has** served with the United States Armed Forces;

27 (B) *[who,]* As certified by one duly licensed physician or naturopathic physician, is rated as
28 having disabilities of 40 percent or more~~].;~~ **and**

29 (C) *[However, a veteran shall be entitled to the exemption granted under this paragraph only if the*
30 *veteran]* During the calendar year immediately preceding the assessment year for which the ex-
31 emption is claimed had total gross income, including pensions, disability compensation or retirement
32 pay, or any combination of such payments from the United States Government on account of such
33 service, of not more than 185 percent of federal poverty guidelines.

34 *[(c) The surviving spouse remaining unmarried of a veteran, but the exemption shall apply only to*
35 *the period preceding the date of the first remarriage of the surviving spouse.]*

36 (c) **The surviving spouse of a veteran.**

37 (3) Upon compliance with ORS 307.260, there shall be exempt from taxation not to exceed
38 \$18,000 of the assessed value of the homestead or personal property of any of the following residents
39 of this state **other than those described in subsection (4) of this section:**

40 (a) Any veteran who is officially certified by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs
41 or any branch of the Armed Forces of the United States as having service-connected disabilities of
42 40 percent or more.

43 (b) The surviving spouse *[remaining unmarried]* of a veteran, if the veteran:

44 (A) Died as a result of service-connected injury or illness; or *[if the veteran]*

45 (B) Received at least one year of the maximum exemption from taxation *[allowed]* **granted un-**

1 der paragraph (a) of this subsection after 1981 [*for a veteran certified as having service-connected*
2 *disabilities of 40 percent or more*].

3 **(4) There shall be exempt from taxation the homestead or personal property of any of the**
4 **following residents of this state:**

5 **(a) Any veteran who is:**

6 **(A) At least 65 years of age; and**

7 **(B) Officially certified by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs or any**
8 **branch of the Armed Forces of the United States as having service-connected disabilities of**
9 **100 percent or more.**

10 **(b) The surviving spouse of a veteran, if the veteran:**

11 **(A) Died as a result of service-connected injury or illness; or**

12 **(B) Received at least one year of the exemption from taxation granted under paragraph**
13 **(a) of this subsection.**

14 [(4)] **(5) The amount of the exemption [allowed] granted** under subsection (2) or (3) of this sec-
15 tion shall equal 103 percent of the amount of the exemption for the prior tax year.

16 **(6) An exemption granted under this section to the property of a surviving spouse of a**
17 **veteran applies solely to the period preceding the date of the first remarriage of the surviv-**
18 **ing spouse of a veteran and ends on the date of remarriage.**

19 **SECTION 12.** ORS 307.260 is amended to read:

20 307.260. (1)(a) Each veteran or surviving spouse **of a veteran** [*qualifying for*] **seeking** the ex-
21 emption under ORS 307.250 [*shall*] **must** file with the county assessor, on forms supplied by the
22 assessor, a claim [*therefor*] **for exemption** in writing on or before April 1 of the assessment year for
23 which the exemption is claimed, except that when the property designated is acquired after March
24 1 but prior to July 1 the claim [*shall*] **must** be filed within 30 days after the date of acquisition.

25 (b) A claim [*need not be filed*] **is not required** under this section in order to be [*allowed*]
26 **granted** the exemption described in ORS 307.250 if:

27 (A) The homestead or personal property of the veteran or surviving spouse **of a veteran** was
28 [*allowed*] **granted** the exemption under ORS 307.250 for the preceding tax year;

29 (B) The individual claiming the exemption is a veteran described in ORS 307.250 (2)(a), [*or*] (3)(a)
30 **or (4)(a)** or a surviving spouse **of a veteran** who meets the requirements of ORS 307.250 (2)(c),
31 [*or*] (3)(b) **or (4)(b)**; and

32 (C) As of the filing date for the current tax year, the ownership and use of the homestead or
33 personal property and all other [*qualifying*] conditions **of eligibility** for the homestead or personal
34 property to be [*allowed*] **granted** the exemption remain unchanged.

35 (c)(A) If the individual claiming the exemption is a veteran described in ORS 307.250 (2)(b), the
36 claimant [*shall*] **must** file a claim annually that satisfies the requirements of subsection (2) of this
37 section on or before the date required in paragraph (a) of this subsection.

38 (B) If the county assessor has not received a claim filed under this paragraph on or before April
39 1 of the current year, not later than April 10 of each year, the county assessor shall notify the
40 veteran in the county who [*secured*] **was granted** an exemption under ORS 307.250 (2)(b) in the
41 preceding year but who did not [*make application therefor*] **file a claim for the exemption** on or
42 before April 1 of the current year. The county assessor may provide the notification on an unsealed
43 postal card. A veteran so notified may [*secure*] **be granted** the exemption, if still [*qualified*]
44 **eligible**, by [*making application therefor to*] **filing a claim for the exemption with** the county
45 assessor not later than May 1 of the current year, accompanied by a late-filing fee of \$10, which

1 shall be deposited in the general fund of the county for general governmental expenses. If the claim
 2 for any tax year is not filed within the time specified, the exemption may not be *[allowed]* **granted**
 3 on the assessment roll for that year.

4 (2)(a) *[The claim shall]* **A claim filed under this section must** set out the basis of the claim
 5 and designate the property to which the exemption may apply. Except as provided in subsection (3)
 6 of this section, **there must be affixed to** claims for *[exemptions]* **exemption** under ORS 307.250
 7 (2)(a), *[and]* (3)(a) **and (4)(a)** *[shall have affixed thereto]* the certificate last issued by United States
 8 Department of Veterans Affairs or the branch of the Armed Forces of the United States, as *[the case*
 9 *may be]* **applicable**, but dated within three years prior to the date of the claim for exemption, cer-
 10 tifying the rate of disability of the claimant.

11 (b) **Except as provided in subsection (3) of this section, there must be affixed to** claims for
 12 exemption under ORS 307.250 (2)(b) *[shall, except as provided in subsection (3) of this section, have*
 13 *affixed thereto]*, in addition to the certificate last issued by a licensed physician or naturopathic
 14 physician and dated within one year prior to the date of the claim for exemption, certifying the rate
 15 of disability of the claimant, a statement by the claimant under oath or affirmation setting forth the
 16 total gross income received by the claimant from all sources during the last calendar year.

17 (c) There **must** also *[shall]* be affixed to each claim the affidavit or affirmation of the claimant
 18 that the statements contained *[therein]* **in the claim** are true.

19 (3) The provisions of subsection (2) of this section that require a veteran to affix to the claim
 20 certificates of the United States Department of Veterans Affairs, a branch of the Armed Forces of
 21 the United States or a licensed physician or naturopathic physician do not apply to a veteran who
 22 has filed the required certificate after attaining the age of 65 years or to a veteran who has filed,
 23 on or after September 27, 1987, a certificate certifying a disability rating that, under federal law, is
 24 permanent and cannot be changed.

25 (4)(a) Notwithstanding subsection (1) of this section, a surviving spouse **of a veteran** may file
 26 a claim for the exemption under ORS 307.250 at any time during the tax year if:

27 (A) The veteran died during the previous tax year; or

28 (B) The property designated as the homestead was acquired after March 1 but prior to July 1
 29 of the assessment year and the veteran died within 30 days of the date the property was acquired.

30 (b) *[The claim shall be allowed by]* The county assessor **shall grant the claim** if the surviving
 31 spouse **of a veteran** meets all *[of the qualifications]* **the eligibility requirements** for an exemption
 32 under ORS 307.250 other than the timely filing of a claim under subsection (1) of this section.

33 (c) If taxes on the exempt value have been paid, the taxes shall be refunded in the manner
 34 prescribed in paragraph (d) of this subsection. If taxes on the exempt value have not been paid, the
 35 taxes and any interest *[thereon]* **on the taxes** shall be abated.

36 (d) The tax collector shall notify the governing body of the county of any refund required under
 37 this section and the governing body shall cause a refund of the taxes and any interest paid to be
 38 made from the unsegregated tax collections account described in ORS 311.385. The refund under this
 39 subsection shall be made without interest. The county assessor and tax collector shall make the
 40 necessary corrections in the records of their offices.

41 **SECTION 13.** ORS 307.270 is amended to read:

42 307.270. (1) The exemption under ORS 307.250 applies to property *[a]* **that an eligible** veteran
 43 or surviving spouse **of a veteran** owns or has in possession under a recorded contract of purchase.

44 (2) The exemption first applies to the homestead of the veteran or surviving spouse **of a veteran**
 45 and then to the personal property of the veteran or surviving spouse **of a veteran**.

1 (3) Property of the spouse of *[the]* a veteran is deemed the homestead of the veteran if the vet-
 2 eran and the spouse of the veteran are living together and occupying the property as their home-
 3 stead.

4 (4) When a veteran or surviving spouse **of a veteran** applies for exemption on properties in two
 5 or more counties, the total amount of the exemption allowed in all counties may not exceed the
 6 maximum amount of exemption under ORS 307.250.

7 [(2)] (5) For each *[qualified]* **eligible** veteran or surviving spouse **of a veteran**, only one valid
 8 and allowable claim for an exemption on a homestead *[shall]* **may** be permitted in any one assess-
 9 ment year.

10 **SECTION 14. The amendments to ORS 307.250, 307.260 and 307.270 by sections 11 to 13**
 11 **of this 2022 Act apply to property tax years beginning on or after July 1, 2022.**

12 **SECTION 15. ORS 307.283 is repealed.**

13 **SECTION 16.** ORS 307.380 is amended to read:

14 307.380. (1) Each corporation described in ORS 307.375, claiming the personal property tax ex-
 15 emption pursuant to ORS 307.370, shall file with the county assessor, on forms supplied by the
 16 assessor, a written claim therefor in duplicate on or before April 1 of each year in which the ex-
 17 emption is claimed, except that when the property designated is acquired after March 1 and before
 18 July 1, the claim for that year shall be filed within 30 days after the date of acquisition. If the claim
 19 for any year is not filed within the time specified, the exemption shall not be allowed on the as-
 20 sessment roll for that year. The claim shall be signed by the taxpayer subject to the penalties for
 21 false swearing.

22 (2)(a) Each corporation annually shall aid residents, who could qualify for property tax ex-
 23 emptions pursuant to ORS 307.250 to 307.283, if the living unit of such elderly person were the
 24 homestead of the person and owned in fee simple, to prepare applications in duplicate for property
 25 tax exemptions on behalf of the corporation, for the benefit of the elderly person as provided by ORS
 26 307.370 to 307.385 and 308.490. The duplicate forms shall be completed and signed by the resident-
 27 applicant and filed with the assessor on or before the date required by law.

28 (b) The corporation shall determine the amount of assessed value that each resident of a
 29 nonprofit home who would have qualified for an exemption under ORS 307.250 to 307.283 would have
 30 had exempted if the living unit of such elderly person was the homestead of the person and owned
 31 in fee simple. The amount of the property tax exemption provided for in ORS 307.370 to 307.385 and
 32 308.490 and attributable to the veteran or surviving spouse of the veteran shall be the lesser of:

33 (A) The maximum amount of exemption that the veteran or surviving spouse of a veteran would
 34 have qualified for under ORS 307.250 *[or 307.283, whichever is applicable]*; or

35 (B) The assessed value of the living unit of the veteran or the surviving spouse.

36 (c) The assessor shall process each such application in the manner otherwise required under
 37 ORS 307.250 to 307.283, except for the requirement of owning or purchasing a homestead. The total
 38 of such exempt amounts in each facility, together with the exemption on personal property, shall
 39 constitute the exemption allowed the corporation.

40 (3) The assessor shall act upon the claim and shall approve it or reject it, noting the action upon
 41 both the original and the duplicate copies. The duplicate copy thereupon shall be returned to the
 42 claimant.

43 (4) The Department of Revenue shall furnish to a county assessor, upon request, a statement
 44 certifying the qualification or nonqualification of a corporation under ORS 307.375.

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UNIT CAPTIONS

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SECTION 17. The unit captions used in this 2022 Act are provided only for the convenience of the reader and do not become part of the statutory law of this state or express any legislative intent in the enactment of this 2022 Act.

EFFECTIVE DATE

SECTION 18. This 2022 Act takes effect on the 91st day after the date on which the 2022 regular session of the Eighty-first Legislative Assembly adjourns sine die.
