

A-Engrossed
House Bill 4095

Ordered by the House February 16
Including House Amendments dated February 16

Sponsored by Representatives HAYDEN, BONHAM; Representatives ALONSO LEON, DEXTER, HIEB, MOORE-GREEN, NOBLE, REYNOLDS, SALINAS, SCHARF, SMITH DB, WEBER, WILDE (Presession 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.

Establishes Veterans Dental Program in Oregon Health Authority to provide oral health care to low-income veterans who reside in Oregon beginning in 2023. Specifies eligibility requirements for program.

Directs Department of Veterans' Affairs to create criteria *[to grant]* **for** waiver to eligibility requirement that veteran be discharged or released under honorable conditions when discharge or release is result of discriminatory policies or practices. **Authorizes county or tribal veterans' service officer to grant waiver in accordance with department criteria.**

Takes effect on 91st day following adjournment sine die.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

Relating to veterans; and prescribing an effective date.

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

SECTION 1. (1) As used in this section:

(a) **"Dental care organization" means a prepaid managed care health services organization, as defined in ORS 414.025, that provides dental care to members of a coordinated care organization.**

(b) **"Medical assistance" has the meaning given that term in ORS 414.025.**

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

(2) **The Veterans Dental Program is established in the Oregon Health Authority and shall be administered in collaboration with the Department of Consumer and Business Services and the Department of Veterans' Affairs. The purpose of the program is to provide oral health care to eligible veterans who are residing in Oregon.**

(3) **The authority shall contract with dental care organizations throughout this state and with individual oral health care providers in areas of this state that are not served by dental care organizations to provide oral health care to veterans enrolled in the Veterans Dental Program.**

(4) **Enrollees in the Veterans Dental Program shall receive the types and extent of oral health care services that the authority determines will be provided to medical assistance recipients in accordance with ORS 414.065, without any corresponding copayments, deductibles or cost sharing required.**

(5) **An individual is eligible for the Veterans Dental Program if the individual:**

(a) **Is a resident of Oregon;**

(b) **Is ineligible for medical assistance;**

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 (c) Has income that is at or below 400 percent of the federal poverty guidelines; and

2 (d)(A) Is a veteran who was discharged or released from service under honorable condi-
3 tions; or

4 (B) Is a veteran who was discharged or released from service under other than honorable
5 conditions and is granted a waiver from the county or tribal veterans' service officer under
6 subsection (7) of this section.

7 (6) The authority shall:

8 (a) Prescribe by rule a simple application process for the Veterans Dental Program.

9 (b) Provide assistance, in person or by telephone, to applicants for and enrollees in the
10 program.

11 (c) Require and accept as verification of eligibility:

12 (A) An applicant's federal DD Form 214 or 215 that demonstrates a discharge or release
13 from service under honorable conditions; or

14 (B) An applicant's waiver granted by the county or tribal veterans' service officer under
15 subsection (7) of this section, if an applicant was discharged or released from service under
16 other than honorable conditions.

17 (7)(a) A veteran who is discharged or released from service under other than honorable
18 conditions may apply with a county or tribal veterans' service officer, who is accredited by
19 the United States Department of Veterans Affairs, for a waiver to the requirement of eligi-
20 bility under subsection (5)(d)(A) of this section that a veteran be discharged or released from
21 service under honorable conditions.

22 (b) The county or tribal veterans' service officer shall decide whether to grant a waiver
23 on an individual basis using criteria established by the Department of Veterans' Affairs by
24 rule, including whether the veteran was discharged or released from service under other
25 than honorable conditions as a result of past or present discriminatory policies or practices.

26 (8)(a) The authority shall use moneys from the Veterans' Services Fund established un-
27 der ORS 406.140 to develop, administer and fund the Veterans Dental Program established
28 under this section.

29 (b) To the extent moneys in the Veterans' Services Fund are insufficient to cover the
30 costs of the Veterans Dental Program, the authority may use moneys appropriated to the
31 authority out of the General Fund for the provision of health care to cover the costs of the
32 Veterans Dental Program.

33 **SECTION 2.** (1) The provision of oral health care through the Veterans Dental Program
34 established under section 1 of this 2022 Act shall begin January 1, 2023.

35 (2) The Oregon Health Authority shall accept applications to enroll in the Veterans
36 Dental Program beginning no later than November 1, 2022.

37 (3) A county or tribal veterans' service officer accredited by the United States Depart-
38 ment of Veterans Affairs shall accept and review applications for a waiver to the require-
39 ment of eligibility to the Veterans Dental Program that a veteran be discharged or released
40 from service under honorable conditions beginning no later than October 15, 2022.

41 **SECTION 3.** This 2022 Act takes effect on the 91st day after the date on which the 2022
42 regular session of the Eighty-first Legislative Assembly adjourns sine die.