

# DRAFT

## SUMMARY

Digest: The Act creates the Veterans Waiver Program. (Flesch Readability Score: 66.7).

Establishes the Veterans Waiver Program in the Oregon Health Authority to provide, beginning in 2026, medical assistance to low-income veterans who reside in Oregon.

Declares an emergency, effective July 1, 2025.

### A BILL FOR AN ACT

Relating to veterans; creating new provisions; amending ORS 406.140; and declaring an emergency.

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

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

(a) “Medical assistance” has the meaning given that term in ORS 414.025.

(b) “Veteran” means an individual who is a veteran, as defined in ORS 408.225, except the individual may be discharged or released under honorable or other than honorable conditions.

(2) The Veterans Waiver Program is established in the Oregon Health Authority to provide medical assistance to veterans who are residing in Oregon.

(3) An individual is eligible for the Veterans Waiver Program if the individual:

(a) Is a resident of Oregon;

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

1 (c) Is a veteran.

2 (4) The authority shall:

3 (a) Prescribe by rule a simple application process for the Veterans  
4 Waiver Program.

5 (b) Provide assistance in person, by telephone or by online chat to  
6 applicants for and enrollees in the program.

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

8 (A) Documentation demonstrating that an applicant's income is at  
9 or below 400 percent of the federal poverty guidelines.

10 (B) An applicant's federal DD Form 214 or 215.

11 **SECTION 2.** ORS 406.140 is amended to read:

12 406.140. There is established in the State Treasury, separate and distinct  
13 from the General Fund, the Veterans' Services Fund, to be administered by  
14 the Oregon Department of Administrative Services. Interest earned by the  
15 fund is credited to the fund. Pursuant to Article XV, section 4f, of the  
16 Oregon Constitution, one and one-half percent of the net proceeds from the  
17 Oregon State Lottery shall be deposited in the Veterans' Services Fund. All  
18 moneys transferred from the State Lottery Fund and all other moneys au-  
19 thorized to be transferred to the Veterans' Services Fund from whatever  
20 source are appropriated continuously to provide services for the benefit of  
21 veterans, **including medical assistance under section 1 of this 2025 Act.**

22 **SECTION 3. (1) The provision of medical assistance through the**  
23 **Veterans Waiver Program established under section 1 of this 2025 Act**  
24 **shall begin on January 1, 2026.**

25 **(2) The Oregon Health Authority shall accept applications to enroll**  
26 **in the Veterans Waiver Program beginning no later than November**  
27 **1, 2025.**

28 **SECTION 4. Notwithstanding any other law limiting expenditures,**  
29 **the amount of \$\_\_\_\_\_ is established for the biennium beginning July**  
30 **1, 2025, as the maximum limit for payment of expenses from lottery**  
31 **moneys allocated from the Veterans' Services Fund established under**

1 **ORS 406.140 to the Oregon Health Authority for implementation of**  
2 **section 1 of this 2025 Act.**

3 **SECTION 5. No later than July 1, 2026, the Oregon Health Authority**  
4 **shall estimate the amount of funding needed to pay the costs of the**  
5 **Veterans Waiver Program established under section 1 of this 2025 Act.**  
6 **If the estimated amount needed exceeds the amount of moneys re-**  
7 **maining in the Veterans' Services Fund established under ORS 406.140,**  
8 **the authority shall include moneys necessary to cover the costs of the**  
9 **Veterans Waiver Program in the authority's agency request budget,**  
10 **as described in ORS 291.208.**

11 **SECTION 6. Section 5 of this 2025 Act is repealed on January 2, 2027.**

12 **SECTION 7. This 2025 Act being necessary for the immediate pres-**  
13 **ervation of the public peace, health and safety, an emergency is de-**  
14 **clared to exist, and this 2025 Act takes effect July 1, 2025.**

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