



HB 4132A Veterans Omnibus



CHIEF SPONSORS : Rep. Evans, Rep. Bowman, Rep. Helfrich, Rep. Pham, Sen. Manning, Sen. Smith.

What is HB 4132A?

HB 4132A focuses on improving the lives and opportunities of veterans in Oregon. The bill directs the Department of Veteran's Affairs to implement a grant program focused on suicide prevention and workplace training for veterans. Additionally, the bill will require studying Veteran's Treatment Court conducted by the Judicial Department and Oregon Criminal Justice Commission.

- The Oregon Department of Veteran Affairs (ODVA) shall develop a **suicide prevention program & award grants to entities involved in working to pair suicide prevention with workplace training** with priority going to those working to provide opportunities in the veteran's local communities
- Updates **hiring criteria regarding the Director and Deputy Director.**
- Modifies the existing VSO program in Oregon Counties to better **serve Oregon Veterans.**

- Updates who can request Veteran DD214 copies held in County records
- Directs the Judicial Department to work with the Oregon Criminal Justice Commission, to **study methods for providing access to veteran's treatments courts to residents of each county or judicial district**
- Expands the Bridge Grant, helping those who are experiencing financial hardship, and **increasing the cap on the individual grant amount**



Why this matters:

1 in 15 Oregonians is a veteran which makes up approximately 266,690 residing in Oregon. HB 4132 is incredibly important for **providing the support our veterans in Oregon deserve and need.** Many veterans in Oregon suffer from substance abuse issues often stemming from PTSD. By exploring methods to expand on veteran's court and working to provide it in all judicial districts, veterans can focus on a recovery process.

In the last published report of veteran suicide rates published by the VA (2022) **Oregon's veteran suicide rate was significantly higher than the national average.** As well as significantly higher than the national suicide rate of the general population.

According to Oregon Health Authority: **one in four Oregon veterans experience frustration in seeking care for mental health or substance use issues,** according to a survey completed by more than 4,000 veterans.