

House Bill 4099

Sponsored by Representatives LEWIS, BOICE, Senator FREDERICK; Representatives BREESE-IVERSON, BUNCH, EDWARDS, EVANS, GRAYBER, HARBICK, HELFRICH, LEVY B, MCINTIRE, OSBORNE, OWENS, SCHARF, SKARLATOS, Senator SMITH DB (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 **as introduced**. The statement includes a measure digest written in compliance with applicable readability standards.

Digest: This Act creates the Task Force on Responding to Veterans in Crisis and makes the task force submit a report to the legislature. (Flesch Readability Score: 62.1).

Establishes the Task Force on Responding to Veterans in Crisis and directs the task force to submit a report to the interim committee of the Legislative Assembly related to emergency management and veterans no later than September 15, 2026.

Sunsets the task force on December 31, 2027.

Takes effect on the 91st day following adjournment sine die.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1 Relating to a task force on veterans in crisis; and prescribing an effective date.

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

3 **SECTION 1.** **(1) The Task Force on Responding to Veterans in Crisis is established.**

4 **(2) The task force consists of at least 14 members appointed as follows:**

5 **(a) The Speaker of the House of Representatives shall appoint two nonvoting members**
6 **from among members of the House of Representatives, each member being from a different**
7 **political party.**

8 **(b) The Governor shall appoint at least 12 members as follows:**

9 **(A) Two members with expertise in advocating for veterans or providing peer support to**
10 **veterans in crisis.**

11 **(B) One member representing an association of chiefs of police.**

12 **(C) One member representing an association of county sheriffs.**

13 **(D) One member representing the Department of State Police with expertise in the Law**
14 **Enforcement Data System.**

15 **(E) One member representing an association of counties.**

16 **(F) One member representing an association of cities.**

17 **(G) One member representing veterans' services officers.**

18 **(H) One member representing the Oregon Health Authority.**

19 **(I) One member representing the Department of Public Safety Standards and Training.**

20 **(J) Any number of additional members with experience or expertise relevant to respond-**
21 **ing to veterans in crisis.**

22 **(3) The task force shall develop a proposal to ensure each county in Oregon has a veteran**
23 **crisis response team consisting of at least two individuals properly trained in responding to**
24 **veterans in crisis. The proposal shall include:**

25 **(a) The organizational structure and funding mechanism for each veteran crisis response**
26 **team.**

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) Training standards and potential certification requirements for members of a veteran**
2 **crisis response team.**

3 **(c) A plan to provide each potential veteran in crisis with a unique government-issued**
4 **identification card that specifies the veteran may be in crisis.**

5 **(d) A path to include a field to flag a veteran as potentially in crisis in the Law**
6 **Enforcement Data System in order to provide law enforcement with timely and useable in-**
7 **formation.**

8 **(e) Any necessary changes to existing state law to ensure law enforcement may transfer**
9 **a veteran in crisis to a veteran crisis response team, including the specification of criteria**
10 **for such transfer.**

11 **(f) Any other necessary changes to existing state law or recommendations to ensure the**
12 **proposal is successful.**

13 **(4) A majority of the voting members of the task force constitutes a quorum for the**
14 **transaction of business.**

15 **(5) Official action by the task force requires the approval of a majority of the voting**
16 **members of the task force.**

17 **(6) The Governor shall select one member of the task force to serve as chairperson and**
18 **another to serve as vice chairperson, for the terms and with the duties and powers necessary**
19 **for the performance of the functions of the offices as the Governor determines.**

20 **(7) If there is a vacancy for any cause, the appointing authority shall make an appoint-**
21 **ment to become immediately effective.**

22 **(8) The task force shall meet at times and places specified by the call of the chairperson**
23 **or of a majority of the voting members of the task force.**

24 **(9) The task force may adopt rules necessary for the operation of the task force.**

25 **(10) The task force shall submit a report in the manner provided by ORS 192.245, and**
26 **shall include recommendations for legislation, to the interim committee of the Legislative**
27 **Assembly related to emergency management and veterans no later than September 15, 2026.**
28 **The report must address the subjects described in subsection (3) of this section.**

29 **(11) The Department of State Police shall provide staff support to the task force.**

30 **(12) Members of the Legislative Assembly appointed to the task force are nonvoting**
31 **members of the task force and may act in an advisory capacity only.**

32 **(13) Members of the task force who are not members of the Legislative Assembly serve**
33 **as volunteers on the task force and, unless they are qualified members, as defined in ORS**
34 **292.495, are not entitled to compensation or reimbursement for expenses.**

35 **(14) All agencies of state government, as defined in ORS 174.111, are directed to assist**
36 **the task force in the performance of the duties of the task force and, to the extent permitted**
37 **by laws relating to confidentiality, to furnish information and advice the members of the task**
38 **force consider necessary to perform their duties.**

39 **SECTION 2. Section 1 of this 2026 Act is repealed on December 31, 2027.**

40 **SECTION 3. This 2026 Act takes effect on the 91st day after the date on which the 2026**
41 **regular session of the Eighty-third Legislative Assembly adjourns sine die.**