



# Oregon

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DATE: September 6, 2018

TO: House Veterans and Emergency Preparedness Committee, Senate Veterans and Emergency Preparedness Committee and the Legislative Administrator

FROM: Kim Douthit, Chair  
Veterans Affairs Advisory Committee

## **Veterans Affairs Advisory Committee Legislative Report: SB 143 Campus Veterans Resource Grant Program Implementation**

### **Overview**

On behalf of the Veterans Affairs Advisory Committee, I am pleased to submit this Legislative Report on the implementation of the Campus Veterans Resource Grant program created under [Senate Bill 143 \(2017\)](#) that provided \$1 million in grant funds to Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs (ODVA) to be awarded to public universities and community colleges for campus veteran resource centers and programs, including campus veteran resource coordinators.

SB 143 directs ODVA to prepare a legislative report on the implementation of the grant program and additional steps required to expand the program during the 2019-21 Biennium. In addition, SB 143 directs the Veterans Affairs' Advisory Committee (VAAC) to provide an additional Legislative Report. This document is the VAAC report required under SB 143.

### **Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs Legislative Report**

ODVA submitted both an Executive Summary and a comprehensive Legislative Report on the implementation of Senate Bill 143 to the House and Senate Veterans and Emergency Preparedness Committees and to the Legislative Administrator on August 27, 2018, in the manner provided by ORS 192.245.

### **SB 143: Required Report from the Veterans Affairs Advisory Committee**

Senate Bill 143, Section 4 reads:

Sec. 4. No later than September 15, 2018, the Advisory Committee appointed under ORS 406.210 shall review and consider the grant programs established under section 1 of this 2017 Act, including the quarterly reports submitted by the grant recipients under section 1 (8) of this 2017 Act and the report prepared by the Department of Veterans' Affairs under section 3 of this 2017 Act, and report to the interim legislative committees relating to veterans.

The Advisory Committee shall evaluate the merits of the grant programs, how grants were awarded to community colleges and public universities and how grant funds were used by grant

recipients. The report must address funding priorities for implementation of legislation that will accomplish one or more of the purposes and objectives of this 2017 Act and make recommendations for legislation.

### **Veterans Affairs Advisory Committee Action on September 5, 2018**

The Veterans Affairs Advisory Committee (VAAC) reviewed the ODVA Executive Summary and comprehensive Legislative Report, the merits of the program, the award process, and use of grants. In addition, the VAAC considered the funding priorities and recommendations for legislation made by Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs in their reports.

During the regular quarterly meeting of the VAAC on September 5, 2018, the members considered all information relating to the Campus Veterans Resource Grant Program Implementation and voted on the language set out in the next section.

### **Veterans Affairs Advisory Committee September 5, 2018: Report to the Legislature**

The Advisory Committee evaluated the merits of the grant programs, how grants were awarded to community colleges and public universities and how grant funds were used by grant recipients and voted to adopt the evaluations contained in both the Executive Summary and in the Legislative Report prepared by ODVA that was submitted to the House and Senate Veterans and Emergency Preparedness Committees on August 27, 2018 and posted on the [ODVA website](#).

In addition, the Advisory Committee agreed with the funding priorities and recommendations for legislation set out in the ODVA Executive Summary and in the Legislative Report, specifically:

Currently, provisions in Senate Bill 143 sunset the program on January 2, 2020. ODVA is proposing legislation to eliminate the sunset provision in order to continue the program. The VAAC concurs with this plan of action.

The Campus Veteran Grant Program already shows signs of great success. The VAAC agrees with Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs' recommendation for funding the Campus Grant Program in the 2019-21 biennium with the following priorities:

1. Veteran resource coordinators.
2. Projects and activities oriented toward transitioning to the workforce.
3. Innovative projects to enhance student veteran engagement.
4. Improvements or expansion of existing veteran resource centers (remodeling, equipment and furniture upgrades, etc.)
5. Allow eligible schools to apply for grant funds that did not apply during the 2017-19 Biennium.

The VAAC also recommended that Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs include a provision in the grant contracts that the community colleges and public universities grantees must work with local county veteran service offices and coordinate their efforts to support student veterans.

This report may be found online: <https://www.oregon.gov/odva/Connect/Pages/Reports.aspx>

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