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PERMANENT ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER

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CHAPTER 274

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' AFFAIRS

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FILING CAPTION: Veterans' Educational Bridge Grant Program

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RULES:

274-036-0200, 274-036-0210, 274-036-0220, 274-036-0230, 274-036-0240, 274-036-0250, 274-036-0260, 274-036-0270

AMEND: 274-036-0200

RULE TITLE: Veterans Educational Bridge Grant Program - Purpose

NOTICE FILED DATE: 10/31/2023

RULE SUMMARY: The 2023 Oregon State Legislature passed House Bill 2271 (Chapter 303, Oregon Laws 2023) which expands applicant eligibility for the Veteran Educational Bridge Grant Program. The maximum grant award remains at \$5,000 lifetime but eligibility is expanded to include additional programs of study or training, veterans who do not have entitlement to U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs educational benefits, and veterans who have a debt on a student account preventing them from registering for future terms. Language was also updated to be inclusive of eligible non-academic programs including apprenticeships, on-the-job training (OJT), and career schools.

RULE TEXT:

The 2019 Oregon State Legislature passed House Bill 2201 (Chapter 527, Oregon Laws 2019), establishing a Veteran Educational Bridge Grant Program (Grant Program) to provide financial assistance to veterans who are unable to complete a degree program within the expected completion period due to the timing of course offerings.

The 2023 Oregon State Legislature passed House Bill 2271 (Chapter 303, Oregon Laws 2023) which expands applicant eligibility for the Veteran Educational Bridge Grant Program. The maximum grant award remains at \$5,000 lifetime but eligibility is expanded to include additional programs of study or training, veterans who do not have entitlement to U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs educational benefits, and veterans who have a debt on a student account preventing them from registering for future terms. Language was also updated to be inclusive of eligible non-academic programs including apprenticeships, on-the-job training (OJT), and career schools.

STATUTORY/OTHER AUTHORITY: ORS 406.005(4), Ch. 527, OL 2019 (HB 2201), Ch. 303, OL 2023 (HB 2271)

STATUTES/OTHER IMPLEMENTED: Ch. 527, OL 2019 (HB 2201), Ch. 303, OL 2023 (HB 2271)

AMEND: 274-036-0210

RULE TITLE: Definitions

NOTICE FILED DATE: 10/31/2023

RULE SUMMARY: The 2023 Oregon State Legislature passed House Bill 2271 (Chapter 303, Oregon Laws 2023) which expands applicant eligibility for the Veteran Educational Bridge Grant Program. The maximum grant award remains at \$5,000 lifetime but eligibility is expanded to include additional programs of study or training, veterans who do not have entitlement to U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs educational benefits, and veterans who have a debt on a student account preventing them from registering for future terms. Language was also updated to be inclusive of eligible non-academic programs including apprenticeships, on-the-job training (OJT), and career schools.

RULE TEXT:

These definitions apply to OAR 274-036-0200 through 274-036-0270

- (1) "Applicant" means the person who applies to the Department for a grant under the Grant Program.
- (2) "Approved Program" means an academic program or training approved to receive G.I. Bill® benefits under U.S. Code Title 38, Chapter 30, 32, or 33.; a career school licensed under ORS 345.010 to 345.450; an apprenticeship program that is registered with the State Apprenticeship and Training Council; or an On-The-Job training program offered by a public employer.
- (3) "Department" or "ODVA" means the Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs.
- (4) "Grant Program" means the Veteran Educational Bridge Grant Program.
- (5) "Oregon based program" means an educational institution or training program that is both located and headquartered in Oregon.
- (6) "Resident" means a resident as defined in OAR 575-030-0005.
- (7) "Veteran" means a veteran as defined in ORS 408.225.

STATUTORY/OTHER AUTHORITY: ORS 406.005(4), Ch. 527, OL 2019 (HB 2201), Ch. 303, OL 2023 (HB 2271)

STATUTES/OTHER IMPLEMENTED: Ch. 527, OL 2019 (HB 2201), Ch. 303, OL 2023 (HB 2271)

AMEND: 274-036-0220

RULE TITLE: Eligibility Requirements

NOTICE FILED DATE: 10/31/2023

RULE SUMMARY: The 2023 Oregon State Legislature passed House Bill 2271 (Chapter 303, Oregon Laws 2023) which expands applicant eligibility for the Veteran Educational Bridge Grant Program. The maximum grant award remains at \$5,000 lifetime but eligibility is expanded to include additional programs of study or training, veterans who do not have entitlement to U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs educational benefits, and veterans who have a debt on a student account preventing them from registering for future terms. Language was also updated to be inclusive of eligible non-academic programs including apprenticeships, on-the-job training (OJT), and career schools.

RULE TEXT:

Eligible applicants must be:

- (1) A veteran;
- (2) An Oregon resident;
- (3) Enrolled as in an approved program which is also an Oregon based program;
- (4) Eligible to receive federal, state, or other financial assistance based on military service or financial need.
- (5) Unable to complete their academic or training program within the expected completion period due to the unavailability of one or more required courses or training hours; or.
- (6) Has debt on a student account that does not exceed \$5,000 and prevents enrollment in future terms.
- (7) Otherwise making satisfactory academic or training progress in an approved program.

STATUTORY/OTHER AUTHORITY: ORS 406.005(4), Ch. 527, OL 2019 (HB 2201), Ch. 303, OL 2023 (HB 2271)

STATUTES/OTHER IMPLEMENTED: Ch. 527, OL 2019 (HB 2201), Ch. 303, OL 2023 (HB 2271)

AMEND: 274-036-0230

RULE TITLE: Application

NOTICE FILED DATE: 10/31/2023

RULE SUMMARY: The 2023 Oregon State Legislature passed House Bill 2271 (Chapter 303, Oregon Laws 2023) which expands applicant eligibility for the Veteran Educational Bridge Grant Program. The maximum grant award remains at \$5,000 lifetime but eligibility is expanded to include additional programs of study or training, veterans who do not have entitlement to U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs educational benefits, and veterans who have a debt on a student account preventing them from registering for future terms. Language was also updated to be inclusive of eligible non-academic programs including apprenticeships, on-the-job training (OJT), and career schools.

RULE TEXT:

- (1) The Department will develop an application form.
- (2) The following documentation shall be submitted by the applicant with the application:
 - (a) Evidence of service and separation must be documented on a certificate of discharge, DD Form 214, a DD214 with correction form DD215, or other evidence of service provided by the Department of Defense, Department of Homeland Security, National Archives, or U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs that is satisfactory to the Department
 - (b) Proof of current Oregon residence.
 - (c) If currently enrolled in an academic or training program, proof of enrollment in an Oregon based academic or training program, and proof that the program meets the criteria for an approved program.
 - (d) Proof of veteran eligibility to receive G.I. Bill® benefits or other financial assistance based on military service or financial need including (but not limited to) Veteran Readiness and Employment (VRE), Oregon Opportunity Grant, PELL Grant, or Oregon Promise.
 - (e) An academic plan, training plan, or training agreement created and executed by an academic advisor, or training supervisor and the applicant.
 - (f) The Department may, in addition to the information and evidence specified in the application, instructions, or rules and regulations, require such additional information and evidence as the Department deems necessary to establish the applicant's eligibility.

STATUTORY/OTHER AUTHORITY: ORS 406.005(4), Ch. 527, OL 2019 (HB 2201), Ch. 303, OL 2023 (HB 2271)

STATUTES/OTHER IMPLEMENTED: Ch. 527, OL 2019 (HB 2201), Ch. 303, OL 2023 (HB 2271)

AMEND: 274-036-0240

RULE TITLE: Criteria for Determination of Bridge Grant Award

NOTICE FILED DATE: 10/31/2023

RULE SUMMARY: The 2023 Oregon State Legislature passed House Bill 2271 (Chapter 303, Oregon Laws 2023) which expands applicant eligibility for the Veteran Educational Bridge Grant Program. The maximum grant award remains at \$5,000 lifetime but eligibility is expanded to include additional programs of study or training, veterans who do not have entitlement to U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs educational benefits, and veterans who have a debt on a student account preventing them from registering for future terms. Language was also updated to be inclusive of eligible non-academic programs including apprenticeships, on-the-job training (OJT), and career schools.

RULE TEXT:

- (1) Applications generally will be prioritized by the Department for consideration based on the date of receipt of the completed application and documented financial need of the veteran. The Department may consider applications in such other order and at such other times as it deems appropriate.
- (2) When determining to whom and in what amount Grant Program funds will be made available to applicants, the Department may take into consideration various factors, including but not limited to:
 - (a) The amount of available funds in the Grant Program account;
 - (b) The anticipated future deposits into the Grant Program account;
 - (c) The number of present commitments from the Grant Program account;
 - (d) The anticipated future commitments from the Grant Program account;
 - (e) The eligibility of the applicant.
- (3) The payment of the grant is subject to the discretion of the Department in consideration of the factors described above in Paragraph (2), together with any other factors, as deemed relevant by the Department.

STATUTORY/OTHER AUTHORITY: ORS 406.005(4), Ch. 527, OL 2019 (HB 2201), Ch. 303, OL 2023 (HB 2271)

STATUTES/OTHER IMPLEMENTED: Ch. 527, OL 2019 (HB 2201), Ch. 303, OL 2023 (HB 2271)

AMEND: 274-036-0250

RULE TITLE: Grant Amount

NOTICE FILED DATE: 10/31/2023

RULE SUMMARY: The 2023 Oregon State Legislature passed House Bill 2271 (Chapter 303, Oregon Laws 2023) which expands applicant eligibility for the Veteran Educational Bridge Grant Program. The maximum grant award remains at \$5,000 lifetime but eligibility is expanded to include additional programs of study or training, veterans who do not have entitlement to U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs educational benefits, and veterans who have a debt on a student account preventing them from registering for future terms. Language was also updated to be inclusive of eligible non-academic programs including apprenticeships, on-the-job training (OJT), and career schools.

RULE TEXT:

- (1) Veteran Educational Bridge Grant total disbursement amounts will not exceed \$5,000 per veteran, per lifetime.
- (2) Grant award amounts will be dependent upon financial need as documented by the veteran in the application provided by the Department.

STATUTORY/OTHER AUTHORITY: ORS 406.005(4), Ch. 527, OL 2019 (HB 2201), Ch. 303, OL 2023 (HB 2271)

STATUTES/OTHER IMPLEMENTED: Ch. 527, OL 2019 (HB 2201), Ch. 303, OL 2023 (HB 2271)

AMEND: 274-036-0260

RULE TITLE: Procedures for the Disbursement of Grant Funds

NOTICE FILED DATE: 10/31/2023

RULE SUMMARY: The 2023 Oregon State Legislature passed House Bill 2271 (Chapter 303, Oregon Laws 2023) which expands applicant eligibility for the Veteran Educational Bridge Grant Program. The maximum grant award remains at \$5,000 lifetime but eligibility is expanded to include additional programs of study or training, veterans who do not have entitlement to U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs educational benefits, and veterans who have a debt on a student account preventing them from registering for future terms. Language was also updated to be inclusive of eligible non-academic programs including apprenticeships, on-the-job training (OJT), and career schools.

RULE TEXT:

(1) The Department will review applications as they are received and determine which eligible applicants will receive Grant awards based upon stated need and availability of Grant funds.

(2) The Applicant will provide all necessary information to the Department for the Grant award to be processed in the State's accounting system.

STATUTORY/OTHER AUTHORITY: ORS 406.005(4), Ch. 527, OL 2019 (HB 2201), Ch. 303, OL 2023 (HB 2271)

STATUTES/OTHER IMPLEMENTED: Ch. 527, OL 2019 (HB 2201), Ch. 303, OL 2023 (HB 2271)

AMEND: 274-036-0270

RULE TITLE: Waiver of Rules

NOTICE FILED DATE: 10/31/2023

RULE SUMMARY: The 2023 Oregon State Legislature passed House Bill 2271 (Chapter 303, Oregon Laws 2023) which expands applicant eligibility for the Veteran Educational Bridge Grant Program. The maximum grant award remains at \$5,000 lifetime but eligibility is expanded to include additional programs of study or training, veterans who do not have entitlement to U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs educational benefits, and veterans who have a debt on a student account preventing them from registering for future terms. Language was also updated to be inclusive of eligible non-academic programs including apprenticeships, on-the-job training (OJT), and career schools.

RULE TEXT:

Subject to the limitations of the law, and at its sole discretion, the Director of the Department of Veterans' Affairs may waive all or part of these administrative rules.

STATUTORY/OTHER AUTHORITY: ORS 406.005(4), Ch. 527, OL 2019 (HB 2201), Ch. 303, OL 2023 (HB 2271)

STATUTES/OTHER IMPLEMENTED: Ch. 527, OL 2019 (HB 2201), Ch. 303, OL 2023 (HB 2271)