



This Legislative Summary Report highlights Veterans policy measures that received a public hearing in a policy committee during the 2023 regular legislative session. The report is organized by sub-topics and includes the measure number; the measure status: enacted [✓] or not enacted [✗]; and a brief description of the measure.

### Veterans sub-topics:

- [Commemorations and Memorials](#)
- [Employment and Benefits](#)
- [Housing](#)
- [Military](#)

## Commemorations and Memorials

<a href="#">SB 200 A</a>	✗	Would have appropriated \$3 million from the General Fund to the Oregon Department of Administrative Services for distribution to the Salvage Chief Foundation for repairs and upgrades to the salvage vessel.
<a href="#">SB 478</a>	✓	Designates the portion of Oregon Highway 82 between mileposts 18 and 25 as the "Deputy Raymond Williams and Deputy Michael Cheney Memorial Highway".
<a href="#">SCR 2</a>	✓	Recognizes and honors service members of the Oregon National Guard.
<a href="#">SCR 4</a>	✓	Recognizes and honors Deputy Douglas Eugene Smith (1955-1978) for his service to this state.
<a href="#">SCR 6</a>	✓	Memorializes the life and accomplishments of The Honorable Ralph Davis Brown (1944-2022).
<a href="#">SCR 7</a>	✓	Celebrates the life and accomplishments of Curtis "Curt" Benefiel (1926-2015).
<a href="#">SCR 8</a>	✓	Memorializes the life and accomplishments of Donald C. "Don" Carey (1925-2019).
<a href="#">SCR 10</a>	✓	Honors the life and accomplishments of John Michael "Mike" Garvey (1953-2022).
<a href="#">SCR 11</a>	✓	Memorializes the service and sacrifice of Lance Corporal Don Edward Darnall (1946-1966).
<a href="#">HB 2144</a>	✓	Removes the requirement that armed forces members who were killed in the line of duty, became prisoners of war, or were missing in action, can receive a

		Fallen Hero roadside memorial recognition only if their remains are returned to Oregon.
HB 2146	✓	Designates the Oregon section of U.S. Highway 30 as the Oregon Gold Star Families Memorial Highway.
HB 2147	✓	Designates the governing body of each county designate a person to ensure the interment of unclaimed cremated remains of veterans and their survivors.
HB 3000	✗	Would have appropriated \$20,000 in General Funds to cover costs associated with Fallen Hero roadside memorial signs and Gold Star Family vehicle registration plates.
HB 3001	✓	Directs the Department of Transportation to waive fees for Fallen Hero roadside memorial highway signs and Gold Star Family vehicle registration plates.
HB 3421	✓	Requires any Veterans Day and Memorial Day commemorative events and ceremonies held by the state government be held on the respective, legal holiday. Declares Legislative Assembly expectation that all state-owned and state-maintained facilities, memorials, and war memorials be clean and well-maintained for Memorial Day and Veterans Day.
HCR 27	✓	Recognizes and honors volunteer firefighter Robert A. Hales (1967-2008) for his service to this state.
HCR 28	✓	Recognizes and honors Lieutenant Colonel Herman A. "Mac" MacDonald, Jr. (1929-2022) for his service to his state, country, and fellow veterans.

## Employment and Benefits

---

SB 178	✗	Would have required the Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs to study and recommend policy proposals for the tax treatment of military pensions and submit a report to a committee of the Legislative Assembly no later than January 1, 2025.
SB 181	✗	Would have exempted from state income tax military pay received by Oregon National Guard member while in active service of the state or on state active duty.
SB 728 A	✗	Would have established an income tax credit for volunteer firefighters.
SB 884 A	✗	Would have increased existing property tax exemptions for Oregon veterans with disabilities. Would have granted exemptions to and recodified the definition of a "surviving spouse of a veteran."
HB 2271	✓	Makes permanent the Veteran Educational Bridge Grant Program and expands eligibility criteria for veterans to receive grants under the program.



- HB 2295 ✓ Broadens public contracting preference for businesses owned by service-disabled veterans to all veteran-owned businesses.
- HB 2297 ✗ Would have required the Public Employees Retirement Board to study retirement credit for military service.
- HB 2305 ✗ Would have exempted military pay from state income tax for Oregon National Guard members while in active service or state active duty.
- HB 2840 ✗ Would have allowed veterans to use a Veteran Identification Card to document status to receive veteran motor vehicle plates.
- HB 2865 ✓ Entitles public employees who are National Guard, National Guard Reserve, or reserve component of the armed forces or Public Health Service members up to 21 days of military leave without penalty for employee rights or benefits.

## Housing

---

- SB 1009 ✗ Would have authorized issuance of \$35 million in general obligation bonds to be transferred to the Department of Veterans' Affairs for the construction of a veterans' home in Roseburg, Oregon. **(Bill is also included in Summary of Legislation Summary Report on Housing)**
- HB 3209 ✗ Would have established the emergency veterans housing program within Oregon Housing and Community Services (OHCS), and appropriates \$75 million to OHCS to award grants for residential housing for low-income, service-disabled veterans and their families. **(Bill is also included in Summary of Legislation Summary Report on Housing)**

## Military

---

- SB 994 ✓ Modifies who may be appointed as temporary Assistant State Judge Advocates. Removes the unexercised authority of the Adjutant General to appoint State Judge Advocate Legal Assistants, and removes certain obsolete language regarding the Oregon Code of Military Justice.
- SB 1032 A ✗ Would have established a higher education grant program through the Higher Education Coordinating Commission for spouses and qualified dependents of eligible Oregon National Guard members.
- SB 1033 ✓ Modifies Oregon National Guard service status definitions and expands authority of Adjutant General, with Governor approval, to order members of organized militia into active state service. Updates definitions within multiple statutes for Oregon National Guard members in active service.



SB 1034



Directs the Oregon Department of Education to transfer certain funds to the Oregon Military Department from the State School Fund to pay for educational service costs provided through programs operated by the military department for at-risk youth.

### **Staff**

Patrick Brennan, Legislative Analyst  
Beverly Schoonover, Legislative Analyst  
Regina Wilson, Legislative Analyst

### **Legislative Policy and Research Office**

Oregon State Capitol | (503) 986-1813 | [www.oregonlegislature.gov/lpro](http://www.oregonlegislature.gov/lpro)

*Please note that the Legislative Policy and Research Office provides centralized, nonpartisan research and issue analysis for Oregon's legislative branch. The Legislative Policy and Research Office does not provide legal advice. Legislative Summary Reports contain general information that is current as of the date of publication. Subsequent action by the legislative, executive, or judicial branches may affect accuracy.*

