



VETERANS

2018 SUMMARY OF LEGISLATION: MEASURE SUMMARIES

The *2018 Summary of Legislation – Veterans* summarizes selected measures related to this policy area that were considered by the 79th Oregon Legislative Assembly, including bills, memorials, and resolutions. This publication will become part of a more comprehensive *2018 Summary of Legislation* that includes all topic area summaries and committee membership lists.

This publication begins with a table highlighting measures that establish task forces or create reporting requirements. The summaries of selected measures follow in three groups—bills, memorials, and resolutions—each listed in numerical order.

Each summary provides information on the chief sponsors, committees assigned, background and current law, description of the measure, and date when the measure, if enacted, becomes effective. Each summary also includes a link to the measure on the [Oregon Legislative Information System \(OLIS\)](#), which provides a more comprehensive staff measure summary, all versions of the measure, amendments, public testimony, a complete measure history, and final vote tallies.

The *2018 Summary of Legislation* focuses on policy measures. Information on revenue measures is available on the [Legislative Revenue Office website](#). Information on the state budget and selected legislation that impacts state agencies is available on the [Legislative Fiscal Office website](#).

The Legislative Policy and Research Office will update this publication with each bill's effective date and assigned chapter in Oregon Laws 2018 when that information becomes available.

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VETERANS TASK FORCES AND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

There were no task forces or reporting requirements involving veterans enacted through legislation during the 2018 session.

[Senate Bill 1506](#)

Effective Date: April 3, 2018

Oregon Wounded Warrior Parking Program

Chief Sponsors: Sens. Manning Jr., Olsen; Rep. Sanchez

Committees: Senate Business and Transportation, Joint Ways and Means

Background and Current Law: Current law provides parking privileges for disabled persons in the form of a placard. A disabled user placard allows parking in spaces reserved for the disabled, while a wheelchair user placard allows parking in spaces designated for disabled or wheelchair users, free parking in metered spaces, and unlimited parking in time-limited spaces. Local jurisdictions have the discretion to authorize additional privileges to individuals with disabled person parking placards.

Bill Summary: Senate Bill 1506 creates the “Oregon Wounded Warrior” parking designation for individuals with a service-connected total disability rating of at least 50 percent and who received a discharge or release under other than dishonorable conditions. The measure specifies that the designation allows parking in public, time-limited, and metered spaces without penalty or payment.

Oregon Laws 2018: Chapter 69

[Senate Bill 1517](#)

Effective Date: January 1, 2019

Free Hunting Tags for Veterans

At the request of: Senate Interim Committee on Veterans and Emergency Preparedness

Committees: Senate Veterans and Emergency Preparedness, House Veterans and Emergency Preparedness

Background and Current Law: The Department of Fish and Wildlife currently operates a program to provide terminally ill children with hunting and fishing opportunities, at no charge, by issuing a certain number of tags to nonprofit entities that organize and sponsor such adventures. The number of tags is determined by rule and is currently 35 per year across all species. No more than a dozen tags have ever been issued in a single year since the program’s inception.

Bill Summary: Senate Bill 1517 incorporates disabled veterans and Purple Heart recipients into the existing program for free hunting tags for terminally ill children by allowing them to access unused tags. The measure caps the total number of tags made available to terminally ill children at 15 and allows the remaining 20 to be made available to eligible nonprofit entities that organize hunting excursions for disabled and combat wounded veterans. The measure also specifies the total number of tags that may be provided to each nonprofit for each species in a given season and limits eligible veterans to one tag per year. Each of the two programs may access the other’s unused tags if any are still available 30 days prior to the relevant season.

Oregon Laws 2018: Chapter 100

Post-Traumatic Stress Injury Awareness

At the request of: Senate Interim Committee on Health Care

Committees: Senate Health Care, House Health Care

Background and Current Law: Post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) is a mental health condition that may occur after an individual experiences or witnesses a traumatic event. Symptoms of PTSD may include persistent, frightening thoughts and memories of the event(s), sleep problems, detached or numb feelings, or being easily startled. The National Institute of Mental Health estimates that 6.8 percent of U.S. adults and 5 percent of adolescents will experience PTSD at some point during their lives.

Bill Summary: Senate Bill 1548 establishes June as Oregon Post-Traumatic Stress Injury Awareness Month and June 27 as Oregon Post-Traumatic Stress Injury Awareness Day. The measure urges the Oregon Health Authority, Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs, and Oregon Military Department to continue working on educating victims of trauma about the causes, symptoms, and treatment of post-traumatic stress injury.

Oregon Laws 2018: Chapter 42

Veterans Omnibus Bill

At the request of: House Committee on Veterans and Emergency Preparedness

Committees: House Veterans and Emergency Preparedness, Joint Ways and Means

Background and Current Law: House Bill 4038 addresses a number of issues of concern to veterans: the siting of the Roseburg Veterans' Home, cemeteries for veterans, incarcerated veterans, the disposition of unclaimed military medals, and veterans' preference for public employment.

Bill Summary: There are two established Veterans' Homes in Oregon, in The Dalles and Lebanon, and a third pending development in Roseburg, for which the state has appropriated \$10 million. House Bill 4038 directs the Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs (ODVA) to study the siting of the next Veterans' Home in Roseburg.

Oregon has been identified by the U.S. Department of Veterans' Affairs as having elevated priority for the development of a State Veterans' Cemetery. House Bill 4038 directs ODVA to study the siting of state veterans' cemeteries and tribal veterans' cemeteries.

In 2015, a task force convened pursuant to House Bill 2838 to study the needs of incarcerated veterans and make recommendations to the legislature. Consistent with those recommendations, House Bill 4038 requires ODVA to provide reentry services that include assistance with reinstatement of veterans' benefits and the appointment of veterans' service officers.

Unclaimed property in Oregon can be sold or destroyed by the Department of State Lands upon proper notice. House Bill 4038 excludes military medals and decorations from this process and provides for alternative disposition.

Veterans are given certain preferences in hiring with the State of Oregon. House Bill 4038 expands the definition of "disabled veteran" for the purpose of receiving public employment preference to include persons who are receiving service-connected compensation from the United States Department of Veterans Affairs.

Oregon Laws 2018: Chapter 91

Apprenticeship Informational Materials and Training

Chief Sponsors: Reps. Meek, Evans; Sen. Boquist; Reps. Heard, McKeown

Committees: House Veterans and Emergency Preparedness, Senate Veterans and Emergency Preparedness

Background and Current Law: Apprenticeship programs provide on-the-job training for careers in industrial, manufacturing, and construction trades. The Bureau of Labor and Industries currently administers apprenticeship programs in 23 subject areas through its Apprenticeship and Training Division, in partnership with private businesses and local communities.

Bill Summary: House Bill 4098 requires the Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs to provide veterans' organizations and county veterans service officers with information and training on apprenticeship opportunities for veterans.

Oregon Laws 2018: Chapter 30