

2020 SUMMARY OF LEGISLATION



Veterans



TASK FORCES AND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

There were no task forces or reporting requirements created by bills in this policy area.

Picture: An eagle statue -- part of a military memorial in The Dalles, Wasco County – [Gary Halvorson, Oregon State Archives](#)

[Senate Bill 1543-A](#)**Not Enacted****Veterans Organization Group Fishing License**

At the request of: Senate Interim Committee on Veterans

Committees: Senate Veterans, House Natural Resources

Background and Current Law: Under current Oregon law, a person seeking to fish or harvest shellfish must purchase applicable licenses, tags, and permits. Uniformed service members, disabled veterans, youth, and seniors are all eligible for free or reduced licenses. Additionally, hospitals or homes run by the Veteran's Administration may apply for up to 30 angling and shellfish harvesting licenses for patients or residents per year. However, nonprofits and other organizations wanting to take groups or individuals fishing or shellfish harvesting must purchase the proper licenses, tag, or permit for each individual.

Bill Summary: Senate Bill 1543-A would have created a free group fishing and shellfish harvesting license that is available to nonprofit organizations serving veterans and certain active duty personnel.

[Senate Bill 1542-A](#)**Not Enacted****Capitol Campus Vietnam War Memorial**

At the request of: Senate Interim Committee on Veterans

Committees: Senate Veterans, House Rules

Background and Current Law: There is currently no Vietnam War specific memorial dedicated and maintained by the State of Oregon. However, there are Vietnam War memorials throughout the state that are dedicated and maintained by counties, cities, and independent organizations. Several memorials are located on or around the State Capitol State Park, including the World War II Memorial, the Medal of Honor Memorials, the Fallen Trooper Memorial, and the Fallen Worker Memorial.

Bill Summary: Senate Bill 1542-A would have dedicated and outright permitted a portion of the State Capitol State Park to a Vietnam War memorial and directed state agencies to assist an Oregon Vietnam War memorial nonprofit during the design and construction process.

[House Bill 4083](#)**Not Enacted****Roadside Memorials for POW/MIA**

Chief Sponsors: Reps. Lewis, Zika, Helt, Evans

At the request of: Lieutenant Colonel Dick Tobiason

Committees: House Veterans and Emergency Preparedness, Senate Veterans

Background and Current Law: Under current law, memorial signs may be installed along roadways to honor individuals who were killed in action while serving in a branch of the U.S. Armed Forces. After five such individuals were so honored by legislation in 2013, a new process was enacted in 2015 requiring that the Legislative Assembly adopt a concurrent resolution, followed by completion of an application and payment of \$600 for sign installation. Thirty individuals were so memorialized between 2016 and 2018.

Bill Summary: House Bill 4083 would have permitted the State to erect roadside memorial signs for veterans who were officially designated as either a prisoner of war or as unaccounted for by the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency. Such a designation would have allowed signs to be erected in their honor through a process separate from the concurrent resolution process.

[Senate Bill 1544-A](#)**Not Enacted****Standards for For-Profit Colleges and Career Schools**

At the request of: Senate Interim Committee on Veterans

Committees: Senate Education, Joint Ways and Means

Background and Current Law: In 1992, Congress enacted the 85/15 rule to combat abuse of federal financial aid programs for higher education. The 85/15 rule limited the share of revenues that for-profit higher education institutions could receive from federal aid to 85 percent. The rule was intended to ensure quality by ensuring that funders other than the federal government were supporting these schools. In 1998, the rule was changed to 90/10. Currently, veterans' benefits do not count as federal aid subject to the 90 percent limit at the federal level.

Bill Summary: Senate Bill 1544-A would have required the Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) to adopt rules establishing minimum standards for all for-profit private colleges and career schools that ensure that at least 10 percent of the annual tuition revenue received by the private colleges and schools comes from sources other than institutional loans or federal funds. This measure would have also established penalties for violating rules enacted by HECC.

[House Bill 4085-A](#)**Not Enacted****Lottery Funds to Long-Term Care Ombudsman for Services to Veterans****Chief Sponsors:** Reps. Wilde, Keny-Guyer**Committees:** House Veterans and Emergency Preparedness, Joint Ways and Means

Background and Current Law: Oregon veterans comprise eight percent of the state's total population but represent 12 percent of the state's chronically homeless population. In 2016, Oregon voters approved Ballot Measure 96, dedicating 1.5 percent of net Oregon Lottery proceeds to fund support services for military veterans.

Senate Bill 1553 (2014) directed the Oregon Long-Term Care Ombudsman, in consultation with the Resident Facilities Advisory Committee, to appoint an Oregon Public Guardian and Conservator to provide services to persons claiming to be without relatives or friends willing or able to serve as guardians or conservators or resources to obtain one.

Bill Summary: House Bill 4085-A would have allocated moneys from the Veterans' Services Fund to the Long-Term Care Ombudsman for the 2019-2021 biennium for purposes of providing public guardian and conservator services exclusively to veterans.