



SENATE MAJORITY OFFICE

Oregon State Legislature
State Capitol
Salem, OR

NEWS RELEASE

April 18, 2017

CONTACT: Rick Osborn (503) 986-1074
Rick.osborn@oregonlegislature.gov

Senate votes to explore expanding veterans resource centers

SB 143 is part of a series of bills related to Ballot Measure 96

SALEM – The Oregon Senate passed legislation today to explore expanding services that help military veterans transition back into civilian life.

Senate Bill 143 – which passed the Senate on a 29-0 vote – calls upon the Oregon Department of Veterans’ Affairs Advisory Committee to report to the Legislature on the merits of investing General Fund dollars to support veterans resource centers and coordinators, as well as whether to add more centers and coordinators.

“Many veterans have unique needs as they transition from the military back into civilian life, and as college students,” said Sen. Laurie Monnes Anderson (D-Gresham), who carried the bill and is herself a military veteran. “Creating more of these centers will help them find community with other veterans who have a similar shared experience. This is a great support for them as they go from being armed forces personnel to civilian students. It will give them a better chance to succeed academically and land in the careers they desire to continue leading productive fulfilling lives.”

The centers currently are located on college campuses and support veterans’ educational and employment goals, making their transition back into civilian life easier. Sometimes that transition presents unique challenges for veterans, and expanding this program could help ease that process for numerous veterans around the state.

Veterans are encouraged – by way of both federal and state educational benefits – to enroll in public universities and community colleges. They often are not typical students, in several ways. They usually are older than their peers, and many have families. They also have a certain

perspective that comes from having served in the armed forces. On-campus resource centers are tailored to help veterans succeed, as well as connect with other veterans within the collegiate environment. It creates a support system to help them be successful.

Senate Bill 143 now goes to the House of Representatives for consideration.

###