



2019 Issue Summaries

Seeking Access to Justice and Equal Rights for All - Veterans

Oregon House Democrats are committed to ensuring that those who served our nation have the support they deserve when they come home.

Support for Oregon's Veterans

Passed Into Law

Armed Forces Spousal Professional Licensure

HB 3030 allows state licensing agencies to issue temporary authorization to work in a regulated field for people who are married to a member of the Armed Forces serving in Oregon if the person holds a license from another state, is in good standing with that out-of-state licensing board, and demonstrates competency.

Oregon National Guard Tuition Grants

HB 2817 expands a grant program managed by the Higher Education Coordinating Commission to eligible National Guard students at private educational institutions and Oregon Health and Science University, as well as a certificate of completion programs at any of the eligible institutions.

Interstate Compact on Education Opportunity for Military Children Sunset Repeal

SB 690 removes the 2019 sunset on the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children. The Compact is concerned with the smooth transfer of students from school to school, who are the children of military parents, and provides consistency as they transfer to new public schools.

Military Children Transfer School Enrollment

SB 802 permits military families to use their military orders to enroll their children in a school in Oregon prior to moving into the district and requires the new school district to provide the same enrollment and class placement rights to eligible military children.

Foreclosure Assistance for Veterans

HB 2530 requires notices to renters and homeowners regarding termination of tenancy to include information about assistance available to veterans. The bill specifies the provision of contact information for county veterans' service officer, community action agency, or 2-1-1 referral service, and requires ODVA and DHCS to submit a joint report to relevant legislative committees by December 1st every year.

Business Loans for Veterans

HB 2211 qualifies disabled veterans for Business Oregon's Entrepreneurial Development Loans.

Disabled Veteran Hunting Licenses

SB 593 requires the ODFW Commission to consider giving persons who have been issued a resident disabled veteran hunting license additional preference points in Oregon's controlled hunt permit system.

Funded

The Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs (ODVA) Budget

HB 5538 allocates \$533 million in funds to ODVA. This includes a 24% increase in funding for programs veterans most rely on for support. Included is added capacity to expand US Department of Veterans Affairs' education programs, additional support for Tribal Veteran Representative partnerships, renewal of funding for the Campus Veteran Grant Program and Veterans Home Loan Program, and additional funding to establish a Veterans' Health Care Transportation Grant Program.

Veteran Educational Bridge Grant Program

HB 2201 creates the Veteran Educational Bridge Grant Program within ODVA to provide financial assistance to veterans who are waiting for a particular course to be offered in order to complete their educational program on time. The bill grants \$5,000 to each qualifying veteran.

Oregon National Guard Career Readiness

HB 2202 directs BOLI to develop and administer a program to conduct outreach to residents of Oregon who served in the Oregon National Guard or a reserve component of the armed forces to inform and connect interested individuals with available apprenticeship opportunities. The bill allocates \$250,000 of Lottery Funds from the Veterans' Services Fund (Measure 96) for purposes of carrying out the measure.