MEASURE NUMBER:HB 2178STATUS: OriginalSUBJECT:Relating to veterans' service officers on community college and Oregon UniversitySystem campusesGOVERNMENT UNIT AFFECTED:Department of Veterans' AffairsPREPARED BY:Robin LaMonteREVIEWED BY:Steve BenderDATE:February 3, 2009

EXPENDITURES:		<u>2009-2011</u>		<u>2011-2013</u>
Personal Services Services and Supplies Total General Fund	\$ \$ _	1,619,569 125,715 1,745,284	\$ \$ - \$	2,727,981 212,500 2,940,481
<b>REVENUES:</b> See comments				
POSITIONS / FTE:		25/14.79		25/25.00

## **EFFECTIVE DATE:** January 1, 2010.

**GOVERNOR'S BUDGET:** This bill is partially anticipated by the Governor's recommended budget.

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT MANDATE:** This bill does not affect local governments' service levels or shared revenues sufficient to trigger Section 15, Article XI of the Oregon Constitution.

**ANALYSIS:** HB 2178 creates the Campus Veterans' Service Officer Program in the Department of Veterans' Affairs (ODVA), to provide educational outreach to veterans. The bill states that ODVA "shall appoint a sufficient number of campus veterans' service officers to ensure that there is one campus veterans' service on the campus of each Oregon community college and each institution in the Oregon University System..." The purpose of the bill is to assist veterans in accessing federal education and related benefits.

Based on the language of the bill, ODVA assumes that there will be one Veterans' Service Officer at each of the 17 community college campuses and at each of the 7 state university campuses, for a total of 24 Veterans' Service Officers. In addition, ODVA will hire one Program Manager to oversee the program. The total cost in 2009-11 of \$1,745,284 would be paid out of the General Fund. The phase-in of the program in the 2009-11 biennium is based on the effective date of the bill of January 1, 2010.

The Governor's budget for ODVA includes a policy option package that funds four Veterans' Service Officers and a program manager for the 2009-11 biennium. The assumption is that the remainder would be hired in 2011-13. The Governor's budget includes \$ 415,679 General Fund for these 5 positions. Depending on budget decisions made by the Joint Committee on Ways and Means, ODVA will need an additional General Fund appropriation for this program.

Community colleges note that there could be some incremental cost for office space for the Veterans' Service Officer. However, depending on the number of veterans who access educational services because of the outreach in this bill, community colleges and the Oregon University System could see an increase in enrollment and federal revenue from this program.