

Enrolled
House Bill 2838

Sponsored by Representative EVANS; Representatives BARKER, CLEM, FREDERICK, GILLIAM, HELM, HUFFMAN, LIVELY, MCLAIN, NOSSE, PARRISH, RAYFIELD, WITT

CHAPTER

AN ACT

Relating to incarcerated veterans; and declaring an emergency.

Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:

SECTION 1. (1) The Task Force on Incarcerated Veterans is established, consisting of eight members appointed as follows:

(a) The President of the Senate shall appoint two members from among members of the Senate.

(b) The Speaker of the House of Representatives shall appoint two members from among members of the House of Representatives.

(c) The Director of Veterans' Affairs shall appoint one representative from the Department of Veterans' Affairs with expertise in services and benefits for incarcerated veterans.

(d) The Director of the Department of Corrections shall appoint one representative from the Department of Corrections with experience with incarcerated veterans.

(e) The Governor shall appoint two individuals who have been incarcerated veterans or who have had experience with incarcerated veterans.

(2) The task force shall research, study and make recommendations regarding the following:

(a) Outreach that may be done to incarcerated veterans with information about veterans' benefits and other benefit programs that provide services and resources to incarcerated veterans;

(b) Assistance that may be available for incarcerated veterans in applying for federal and state veterans' benefits and aid to which incarcerated veteran may be entitled on account of the incarcerated veterans' military service;

(c) Assistance that may be available to incarcerated veterans in appealing any denial of veterans' benefits or aid;

(d) Informational materials that may be created for incarcerated veterans;

(e) The process and recommendations for developing a comprehensive and coordinated statewide network of information and referral resources for incarcerated veterans; and

(f) Recommendations for how the Department of Veterans' Affairs may serve as a liaison for incarcerated veterans and incarcerated veterans issues with the Department of Corrections, reentry councils, the United States Department of Veterans Affairs and others.

(3) A majority of the members of the task force constitutes a quorum for the transaction of business.

(4) Official action by the task force requires the approval of a majority of the members of the task force.

(5) The task force shall elect one of its members to serve as chairperson.

(6) If there is a vacancy for any cause, the appointing authority shall make an appointment to become immediately effective.

(7) The task force shall meet at times and places specified by the call of the chairperson or of a majority of the members of the task force.

(8) The task force may adopt rules necessary for the operation of the task force.

(9) The task force shall submit a report in the manner provided by ORS 192.245, and may include recommendations for legislation, to the interim legislative committees with subject matter jurisdiction of veterans' affairs no later than September 15, 2016.

(10) The Department of Veterans' Affairs shall provide staff support to the task force.

(11) Members of the task force who are not members of the Legislative Assembly are not entitled to compensation, but may be reimbursed for actual and necessary travel and other expenses incurred by them in the performance of their official duties in the manner and amounts provided for in ORS 292.495. Claims for expenses incurred in performing functions of the task force shall be paid out of funds appropriated to the Department of Veterans' Affairs for purposes of the task force.

(12) All agencies of state government, as defined in ORS 174.111, are directed to assist the task force in the performance of its duties and, to the extent permitted by laws relating to confidentiality, to furnish such information and advice as the members of the task force consider necessary to perform their duties.

SECTION 2. Section 1 of this 2015 Act is repealed on December 31, 2016.

SECTION 3. In addition to and not in lieu of any other appropriation, there is appropriated to the Department of Veterans' Affairs, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2015, out of the General Fund, the amount of \$21,068, to implement and carry out the functions of the Task Force on Incarcerated Veterans established in section 1 of this 2015 Act.

SECTION 4. This 2015 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2015 Act takes effect on July 1, 2015.

Passed by House July 1, 2015

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Timothy G. Sekerak, Chief Clerk of House

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Tina Kotek, Speaker of House

Passed by Senate July 2, 2015

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Peter Courtney, President of Senate

Received by Governor:

.....M,....., 2015

Approved:

.....M,....., 2015

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Kate Brown, Governor

Filed in Office of Secretary of State:

.....M,....., 2015

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Jeanne P. Atkins, Secretary of State