

A-Engrossed
House Bill 2203

Ordered by the House April 9
Including House Amendments dated April 9

Introduced and printed pursuant to House Rule 12.00. Pre-session filed (at the request of House Interim Committee on Veterans and Emergency Preparedness)

SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure.

[Directs Department of Veterans' Affairs to study and make recommendations regarding improvements to operations of department. Requires department to submit report on findings by January 1, 2021.]

Directs Oregon Criminal Justice Commission to develop and implement grant program to provide funding to Oregon counties for veterans' courts.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1
2 Relating to veterans.

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

4 **SECTION 1. (1) The Oregon Criminal Justice Commission shall develop and implement a**
5 **grant program to provide funding to Oregon counties to:**

6 (a) Support the operation of existing veterans' courts; and

7 (b) Support the implementation of veterans' courts in counties that do not offer veterans'
8 courts.

9 (2) To be eligible for a grant under the program, a county must commit to providing local
10 resources or funding for veterans' courts at a level or in amounts determined by the com-
11 mission by rule.

12 (3) Under the grant program, counties may submit proposals to the commission that
13 describe the counties' need for grant funding and proposed uses for grant funding. The
14 commission shall award grants to counties on a competitive basis, with the goal of maxi-
15 mizing the number of veterans who have access to veterans' courts.

16 (4) Before grant funding is disbursed to a grant recipient, the commission shall enter into
17 a written grant agreement with the recipient. The grant agreement must:

18 (a) Set forth permissible uses for the grant funding;

19 (b) Require the recipient to provide local resources or funding for veterans' courts; and

20 (c) Require the recipient to report to the commission on the expenditure of the grant
21 funding, at intervals and for a period that the commission deems necessary to ensure that
22 grant funding is expended for permissible purposes.

23 (5) The commission may solicit and accept gifts, grants and donations from public and
24 private sources to further the purposes of this section.

25 (6) The commission may adopt rules as necessary or convenient to implement the pro-
26 visions of this section.

NOTE: Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter *[italic and bracketed]* is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 **(7) As used in this section, “veterans’ court” means a specialized court or court program**
2 **for defendants who are military veterans.**

3 **SECTION 2. There is appropriated to the Oregon Criminal Justice Commission, for the**
4 **biennium beginning July 1, 2019, out of the General Fund, the amount of \$500,000 for the**
5 **purpose of carrying out the provisions of section 1 of this 2019 Act.**
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