

HB 2141 -1 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Veterans and Emergency Management

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Sub-Referral To: Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Meeting Dates: 1/26, 2/23, 3/2

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Extends sunset of Veterans Educational Bridge Grant Program from 2022 to 2024.

Subsequent referral to Joint Committee on Ways and Means

REVENUE: *No revenue impact*

FISCAL: *Fiscal impact issued*

-1 REVENUE: *No revenue impact*

-1 FISCAL: *No fiscal impact*

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Need of campus veterans for grant program during COVID -19 pandemic
- Sunset originally in 2022 to collect data on program need and usage; pandemic possibly skewing data
- Extending sunset will allow to track post-COVID and non-COVIS needs of campus veterans
- Number of veterans helped by program so far
- How much additional funding would be useful for the program

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-1 Removes sunset from Veterans Educational Bridge Grant Program.

BACKGROUND:

The Veterans Educational Bridge Grant Program was created by the Oregon Legislature during the 2019 legislative session with the passage of House Bill 2201 to support student veterans who are unable to complete an academic program on time because a required course is not available, with grants of up to \$5000. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the need for assistance has been extremely high. The program is currently scheduled to sunset on January 2, 2022.

House Bill 2141 extends the sunset on the Veterans Educational Bridge Program from 2022 to 2024.