

House Bill 2899

Sponsored by Representative EVANS; Representatives MEEK, POST (at the request of former Representative Carla Piluso) (Pre-session filed.)

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 **as introduced**.

Directs Department of Veterans' Affairs 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' courts.

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

4 **SECTION 1. (1) The Department of Veterans' Affairs shall develop and implement a grant**
5 **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 de-**
11 **partment by rule.**

12 (3) **The minimum amount of a grant under the program is \$25,000 per biennium. The**
13 **maximum amount is \$100,000 per biennium.**

14 (4) **Under the grant program, counties may submit proposals to the department that de-**
15 **scribe the counties' need for grant funding and proposed uses for grant funding. The de-**
16 **partment shall award grants to counties on a competitive basis, with the goal of maximizing**
17 **the number of veterans who have access to veterans' courts.**

18 (5) **The department shall consult with the Advisory Committee established under ORS**
19 **406.210 in determining which grant proposals to fund and in what amounts.**

20 (6) **Before grant funding is disbursed to a grant recipient, the department shall enter into**
21 **a written grant agreement with the recipient. The grant agreement must:**

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

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

24 (c) **Require the recipient to report to the department on the expenditure of the grant**
25 **funding, at intervals and for a period that the department deems necessary to ensure that**
26 **grant funding is expended for permissible purposes.**

27 (7) **The department may solicit and accept gifts, grants and donations from public and**
28 **private sources to further the purposes of this section.**

29 (8) **The department may adopt rules as necessary or convenient to implement the pro-**
30 **visions of this section.**

31 (9) **As used in this section, "veterans' court" means a specialized court or court program**

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 **for defendants who are military veterans.**

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