

Legislative Fiscal Office

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Joint Committee on Ways and Means

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Tom MacDonald, Deputy Legislative Fiscal Officer (Budget)
Paul Siebert, Deputy Legislative Fiscal Officer (Audit/IT)

To: Transportation and Economic Development Subcommittee

From: Walt Campbell, Legislative Fiscal Office

Date: May 24, 2023

Subject: HB 2271 – Relating to the Veteran Educational Bridge Grant
Work Session Recommendations

HB 2271 removes the sunset on and makes permanent the Veteran Educational Bridge Grant Program which is administered by the Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs (ODVA). The measure also expands eligibility to veterans seeking to study at licensed career schools, state-registered apprenticeship programs, or on the job training programs offered by public employers. Previously, eligibility was limited to programs for which United States Department of Veterans Affairs education benefits could be used. Additionally, the measure expands eligibility to veterans facing the inability to enroll due to previous overpayment of benefits or prior withdrawal.

ODVA's budget includes ongoing funding for the grant program through dedicated Lottery Funds in the amount of \$186,550 in 2023-25 current service level. The agency's budget bill (SB 5538) includes an additional \$400,000 in one-time funding to support the expanded eligibility requirements in this bill.

Final Subcommittee Action

LFO recommends that HB 2271 be moved to the Ways and Means Full Committee.

MOTION: I move HB 2271 to the Full Committee with a do pass recommendation.
(VOTE)

Carriers

Full Committee: _____

House Floor: _____

Senate Floor: _____