

Enrolled House Bill 2271

Introduced and printed pursuant to House Rule 12.00. Pre-session filed (at the request of Governor Kate Brown for Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs)

CHAPTER

AN ACT

Relating to the Veteran Educational Bridge Grant Program; amending ORS 408.090 and section 1, chapter 527, Oregon Laws 2019; and repealing sections 6 and 8, chapter 527, Oregon Laws 2019.

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

SECTION 1. Section 1, chapter 527, Oregon Laws 2019, is amended to read:

Sec. 1. (1) The Veteran Educational Bridge Grant Program is established within the Department of Veterans' Affairs. Under the program, the department shall conduct outreach and provide grants to veterans who:

(a) Are pursuing and enrolled in [*an approved*] a course of study **that is in or part of:**

(A) Any program for which United States Department of Veterans Affairs education benefits may be used;

(B) **A career school licensed under ORS 345.010 to 345.450;**

(C) **An apprenticeship program that is registered with the State Apprenticeship and Training Council; or**

(D) **An on-the-job training program offered by a public employer;**

(b)(A) Are eligible to receive federal, **state or other** financial assistance based on prior service in the Armed Forces of the United States; [*and*] **or**

(B) **Demonstrate a need for student financial aid from any federal or state assistance program, including Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965;**

(c)(A) Are unable to complete a degree, **apprenticeship or training** program within the expected completion period because one or more required courses **or apprenticeship or training hours** are not available until a later date[.]; **or**

(B) **Have debt on a student account due to an overpayment of federal or state tuition benefits or prior course withdrawal that prevents enrollment in a future term; and**

(d) **Are making satisfactory academic progress or progress in a program described in paragraph (a) of this subsection.**

(2) Grants under the program:

(a) May not exceed \$5,000 per veteran; and

(b) May be made only when there are sufficient moneys in the Veteran Educational Bridge Grant Program Fund established under section 2, **chapter 527, Oregon Laws 2019**, [*of this 2019 Act*] to make the grants.

(3) The Department of Veterans' Affairs shall adopt rules for the implementation and operation of the program, including eligibility requirements for grant applicants.

(4) As used in this section, "veteran" has the meaning given that term in ORS 408.225 and includes disabled veterans, as defined in ORS 408.225.

SECTION 2. (1) **Section 6, chapter 527, Oregon Laws 2019, as amended by section 1, chapter 678, Oregon Laws 2021, is repealed.**

(2) **Section 8, chapter 527, Oregon Laws 2019, as amended by section 2, chapter 678, Oregon Laws 2021, is repealed.**

SECTION 3. ORS 408.090, as amended by section 7, chapter 527, Oregon Laws 2019, is amended to read:

408.090. (1) The Director of Veterans' Affairs, acting on behalf of the State of Oregon, is authorized to accept any donation, gift, grant, bequest or devise made in furtherance of the purposes of ORS 408.010 to 408.090 **and section 1, chapter 527, Oregon Laws 2019.** A donation, gift, grant, bequest or devise that is made in cash or its equivalent or reduced thereto, shall be promptly paid by the director to the State Treasurer, who shall credit the amount so received to the Veterans' Educational Aid Account in the General Fund. The director shall make such disposition of donations, gifts, grants, bequests or devises, not made in cash or its equivalent, as is specified by the donor thereof, and their earnings and proceeds shall inure to said account. All such donations, gifts, grants, bequests or devises accepted by the director are transfers exempt from taxes imposed on inheritances under the laws of this state.

(2) All moneys in the Veterans' Educational Aid Account are continuously appropriated to the director and may be used by the director for the purposes authorized in ORS 408.010 to 408.090 **and section 1, chapter 527, Oregon Laws 2019.**

Passed by House June 7, 2023

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Timothy G. Sekerak, Chief Clerk of House

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Dan Rayfield, Speaker of House

Passed by Senate June 22, 2023

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Rob Wagner, President of Senate

Received by Governor:

.....M.,....., 2023

Approved:

.....M.,....., 2023

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Tina Kotek, Governor

Filed in Office of Secretary of State:

.....M.,....., 2023

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Secretary of State