

House Bill 3340

Sponsored by Representatives HELFRICH, LEVY B, OWENS; Representatives BOICE, HIEB, JAVADI

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**.

Requires Department of Veterans' Affairs to distribute moneys for veterans' service officers to counties that have population of less than 30,000 and are or will be unable to maintain operations of veterans' service officers due to budget decreases.

Requires counties to apply for moneys. Establishes requirements for application.

Declares emergency, effective on passage.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

Relating to county veterans' service officers; and declaring an emergency.

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

SECTION 1. (1) Notwithstanding the distribution formula adopted under ORS 406.454, the Department of Veterans' Affairs shall, from amounts allocated to the Veterans' Department of Veterans' Affairs Dedicated Lottery Fund, distribute moneys to qualified counties for the purpose of maintaining or reinstating operations in those counties of county veterans' service officers appointed under ORS 408.410.

(2) The department may not distribute moneys under subsection (1) of this section unless a county submits an application for the moneys. The application must include:

(a) A certification that the county meets the definition of "qualified county" under this section;

(b) A statement of the amount necessary to maintain or reinstate the county veterans' service officer program, including supporting documentation; and

(c) A plan for the expenditure of the requested moneys.

(3) The department may prescribe the form of the application by rule.

(4) The department shall, by rule, establish a process for determining the distribution of moneys under this section. The process must have the goal of maintaining or reinstating access to county veterans' service officers for the maximum number of individuals.

(5) As used in this section, "qualified county" means a county in this state that:

(a) Has a population of less than 30,000; and

(b) Is unable to maintain, or imminently will become unable to maintain, the operations of county veterans' service officers due to decreases in the overall budget of the county.

SECTION 2. This 2023 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2023 Act takes effect on its passage.

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.