

House Bill 2537

Introduced and printed pursuant to House Rule 12.00. Pre-session filed (at the request of House Interim Committee on Emergency Management, General Government, and Veterans for Representative Thuy Tran)

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**. The statement includes a measure digest written in compliance with applicable readability standards.

Digest: The Act creates the Veterans Waiver Program. (Flesch Readability Score: 66.7).
Establishes the Veterans Waiver Program in the Oregon Health Authority to provide, beginning in 2026, medical assistance to low-income veterans who reside in Oregon.
Declares an emergency, effective July 1, 2025.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1 Relating to veterans; creating new provisions; amending ORS 406.140; and declaring an emergency.

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

3 **SECTION 1. (1) As used in this section:**

4 (a) **“Medical assistance” has the meaning given that term in ORS 414.025.**

5 (b) **“Veteran” means an individual who is a veteran, as defined in ORS 408.225, except the**
6 **individual may be discharged or released under honorable or other than honorable conditions.**

7 (2) **The Veterans Waiver Program is established in the Oregon Health Authority to pro-**
8 **vide medical assistance to veterans who are residing in Oregon.**

9 (3) **An individual is eligible for the Veterans Waiver Program if the individual:**

10 (a) **Is a resident of Oregon;**

11 (b) **Has income that is at or below 400 percent of the federal poverty guidelines; and**

12 (c) **Is a veteran.**

13 (4) **The authority shall:**

14 (a) **Prescribe by rule a simple application process for the Veterans Waiver Program.**

15 (b) **Provide assistance in person, by telephone or by online chat to applicants for and**
16 **enrollees in the program.**

17 (c) **Require and accept as verification of eligibility:**

18 (A) **Documentation demonstrating that an applicant’s income is at or below 400 percent**
19 **of the federal poverty guidelines.**

20 (B) **An applicant’s federal DD Form 214 or 215.**

21 **SECTION 2. ORS 406.140 is amended to read:**

22 406.140. There is established in the State Treasury, separate and distinct from the General Fund,
23 the Veterans’ Services Fund, to be administered by the Oregon Department of Administrative Ser-
24 vices. Interest earned by the fund is credited to the fund. Pursuant to Article XV, section 4f, of the
25 Oregon Constitution, one and one-half percent of the net proceeds from the Oregon State Lottery
26 shall be deposited in the Veterans’ Services Fund. All moneys transferred from the State Lottery
27 Fund and all other moneys authorized to be transferred to the Veterans’ Services Fund from what-
28 ever source are appropriated continuously to provide services for the benefit of veterans, **including**
29

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 medical assistance under section 1 of this 2025 Act.

2 **SECTION 3.** (1) The provision of medical assistance through the Veterans Waiver Pro-
3 gram established under section 1 of this 2025 Act shall begin on January 1, 2026.

4 (2) The Oregon Health Authority shall accept applications to enroll in the Veterans
5 Waiver Program beginning no later than November 1, 2025.

6 **SECTION 4.** Notwithstanding any other law limiting expenditures, the amount of \$ _____
7 is established for the biennium beginning July 1, 2025, as the maximum limit for payment of
8 expenses from lottery moneys allocated from the Veterans' Services Fund established under
9 ORS 406.140 to the Oregon Health Authority for implementation of section 1 of this 2025 Act.

10 **SECTION 5.** No later than July 1, 2026, the Oregon Health Authority shall estimate the
11 amount of funding needed to pay the costs of the Veterans Waiver Program established un-
12 der section 1 of this 2025 Act. If the estimated amount needed exceeds the amount of moneys
13 remaining in the Veterans' Services Fund established under ORS 406.140, the authority shall
14 include moneys necessary to cover the costs of the Veterans Waiver Program in the
15 authority's agency request budget, as described in ORS 291.208.

16 **SECTION 6.** Section 5 of this 2025 Act is repealed on January 2, 2027.

17 **SECTION 7.** This 2025 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public
18 peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2025 Act takes effect
19 July 1, 2025.