

## HB 4132 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

### House Committee On Emergency Management and Veterans

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**Action Date:** 02/12/26

**Action:** Do pass with amendments and be referred to Ways and Means by prior reference.  
(Printed A-Eng.)

**Vote:** 6-1-0-0

**Yea:** 6 - Boice, Evans, Grayber, Lewis, Tran, Watanabe

**Nays:** 1 - Skarlatos

**Fiscal:** Fiscal impact issued

**Revenue:** No revenue impact

**Prepared By:** Beverly Anderson, LPRO Analyst

**Meeting Dates:** 2/5, 2/12

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#### WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure creates the 2026 Oregon Veterans' Services Supplemental Investments Initiative. It takes effect on July 1, 2026.

#### Detailed Summary:

- Provides legislative intent to fund the Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs (ODVA) with no less than \$10 million from the General Fund, as measured in 2015 and adjusted for inflation as calculated by the Legislative Fiscal Office
- Creates 12 full-time positions at the department, and requires the director to establish and hire 5 of these positions no later than July 1, 2028, 4 positions by July 1, 2030, and 3 positions by July 1, 2032
- Establishes the veterans employment coordinator at the department, and defines responsibilities and duties
- Clarifies that the ODVA director shall be a veteran who received a discharge or release under other than dishonorable conditions
- Allows, with the governor's approval, the ODVA director to hire a deputy director after consideration of their veteran experience
- For purposes of establishing the **Veteran Suicide Prevention Grant Program** at ODVA, the measure:
  - Describes the grant-making process, and allows the use of the Veterans' Services Fund for grant-making
  - Allows the department to solicit and accept gifts, grants, and donations for grant-making, and allows for rulemaking
  - Requires ODVA to submit a report to the legislature's interim committee related to veterans on the grant program by January 2, 2028
  - Repeals the program on January 2, 2029, and reverts unexpended funds back to the Veterans' Services Fund
- Amends provisions of the Veterans' Services Fund (ORS 406.140) to require the department to hold no more than 12 percent of the fund in reserve
- For purposes of amending the **County Veterans Service Officer Program**, the measure:
  - Includes provisions for new county notifications
  - Establishes quarterly reporting and documentation for counties
  - Requires the director to use a distribution formula to distribute remaining funds within 90 days of the last date of the fiscal year to qualified counties
  - Allows the director to decrease program funds if there is a decrease in the State Lottery Fund
  - Requires the department to report to the legislature's interim committees related to veterans and to the Association of Counties on the fund distribution process no later than January 2, 2030
- Amends statutes regarding county records and requests to inspect veteran discharge papers

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- Amends provisions related to the **Veteran Educational Bridge Grant** program, and raises the maximum grant amount from \$5,000 to \$10,000
- Requires the Oregon Judicial Department, in consultation with the Oregon Criminal Justice Commission, to study methods for providing access to veterans' treatment courts (as defined in ORS 3.450) to the residents of each county or judicial district; describes reporting and consultation requirements; requires the report be submitted to the legislature's interim committee related to military and veterans no later than November 1, 2026; and repeals this provision on January 2, 2027

### **ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Suicide prevention and mental health efforts that support veterans
- Proposed positions at ODVA and questions about service-related specialties
- Funding mechanisms

### **EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:**

The amendment removes provisions related to the Employer Incentive Fund and the School Districts Unfunded Liability Fund, and it reorders chapter numbers.

### **BACKGROUND:**

The mission of the ODVA is to honor and serve [all Oregon veterans](#) and their families by aligning and delivering the earned benefits and services that enhance their lives in recognition of their service to the nation. According to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, more than 265,000 veterans live in Oregon, having served across five major war eras.