

**A-Engrossed**  
**House Bill 2864**

Ordered by the House May 17  
Including House Amendments dated May 17

Sponsored by COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS

**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.

*[Creates Veterans' Discharge Stipend Program to provide temporary income to veterans when discharged from active federal service.]*

**Creates Oregon Veterans' Emergency Financial Assistance Program to provide financial assistance to veterans and their families. Establishes Oregon Veterans' Emergency Financial Assistance Fund.**

Appropriates moneys from General Fund to *[Director of Veterans' Affairs]* fund for program.  
Declares emergency, effective July 1, 2005.

**A BILL FOR AN ACT**

1  
2 Relating to veterans; creating new provisions; amending ORS 408.225; appropriating money; and de-  
3 claring an emergency.

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

5 **SECTION 1. (1) The Oregon Veterans' Emergency Financial Assistance Program is cre-**  
6 **ated.**

7 **(2) The purpose of the program is to provide emergency financial assistance to Oregon**  
8 **veterans and their immediate families for needs that include but are not limited to:**

9 **(a) Emergency or temporary housing and related housing expenses, such as expenses for**  
10 **utilities, insurance, house repairs, rent assistance or food;**

11 **(b) Emergency medical or dental expenses;**

12 **(c) Emergency transportation;**

13 **(d) Expenses related to starting a business, such as business licenses or occupational li-**  
14 **censes;**

15 **(e) Temporary income after military discharge; and**

16 **(f) Legal assistance.**

17 **(3) The Director of Veterans' Affairs shall adopt regulations implementing subsection (2)**  
18 **of this section, including but not limited to establishing procedures for applying for emer-**  
19 **gency financial assistance and criteria for determining eligibility to receive emergency fi-**  
20 **nancial assistance.**

21 **(4) As used in this section:**

22 **(a) "Immediate family" means a spouse, child or stepchild.**

23 **(b) "Veteran" means:**

24 **(A) A veteran as defined in ORS 408.225;**

25 **(B) A person who is a member of the Oregon National Guard who has been demobilized**

**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 after serving on federal active duty for more than 30 days; or

2 (C) A person who is an Oregon resident, is a member of the Reserves and has been de-  
3 mobilized after serving on federal active duty for more than 30 days.

4 **SECTION 2.** The Oregon Veterans' Emergency Financial Assistance Fund is established  
5 in the State Treasury, separate and distinct from the General Fund. The Oregon Veterans'  
6 Emergency Financial Assistance Fund shall consist of moneys appropriated to the fund by  
7 the Legislative Assembly. Moneys in the fund are continuously appropriated to the Director  
8 of Veterans' Affairs for the purposes of funding the Oregon Veterans' Emergency Financial  
9 Assistance Program created in section 1 of this 2005 Act. Interest earned by the Oregon  
10 Veterans' Emergency Financial Assistance Fund shall be credited to the fund.

11 **SECTION 3.** ORS 408.225 is amended to read:

12 408.225. As used in ORS [241.240 and] 408.225 to 408.235:

13 [(1) "Veteran" means a person who served on active duty with the Armed Forces of the United  
14 States for a period of more than 180 consecutive days, and was discharged or released therefrom with  
15 other than a dishonorable discharge; or a person who served on active duty with the Armed Forces  
16 of the United States for 180 days or less and was discharged or released therefrom with other than a  
17 dishonorable discharge because of a service-connected disability. Attendance at a school under military  
18 orders, except schooling incident to an active enlistment or regular tour of duty, or normal military  
19 training as a reserve officer or member of an organized reserve or national guard unit shall not be  
20 considered active duty.]

21 (1) "Combat zone" means an area designated by the President of the United States by  
22 executive order in which, on the dates designated by executive order, the Armed Forces of  
23 the United States are or have engaged in combat.

24 (2) "Disabled veteran" means a person entitled to disability compensation under laws adminis-  
25 tered by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs, a person whose discharge or release  
26 from active duty was for a disability incurred or aggravated in the line of duty or a person who  
27 was awarded the Purple Heart for wounds received in combat.

28 (3)(a) "Veteran" means a person who served on active duty with the Armed Forces of the  
29 United States:

30 (A) For a period of more than 178 consecutive days, and was discharged or released from  
31 active duty with other than a dishonorable discharge;

32 (B) For 178 days or less and was discharged or released from active duty with other than  
33 a dishonorable discharge because of a service-connected disability;

34 (C) For at least one day in a combat zone and was discharged or released from active  
35 duty with other than a dishonorable discharge; or

36 (D) Received a combat or campaign ribbon for service in the Armed Forces of the United  
37 States.

38 (b) As used in this subsection, "active duty" does not include attendance at a school un-  
39 der military orders, except schooling incident to an active enlistment or regular tour of duty,  
40 or normal military training as a reserve officer or member of an organized reserve or Na-  
41 tional Guard unit.

42 **SECTION 4.** There is appropriated to the Oregon Veterans' Emergency Financial Assist-  
43 ance Fund, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2005, out of the General Fund, the amount of  
44 \$1,000,000.

45 **SECTION 5.** This 2005 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public

1 **peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2005 Act takes effect**  
2 **July 1, 2005.**

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