

# House Bill 2153

Sponsored by Representative OWENS (at the request of Vern Brown, Jr.) (Pre-session filed.)

## 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**.

Directs Director of Veterans' Affairs to establish Oregon Veterans' Community, to include residential units and medical and social services for veterans and family members. Directs director to contract with nongovernmental entity for construction, operation and management of veterans' community.

Authorizes incorporated cities to acquire real property for sale or donation to Department of Veterans' Affairs for purposes of veterans' community and to incur debt for such acquisitions.

Allocates lottery moneys for purposes of veterans' community.

## A BILL FOR AN ACT

1  
2 Relating to veterans' communities.

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

4 **SECTION 1. It is the policy of the State of Oregon to provide communities in which**  
5 **veterans may reside with convenient access to medical and social services for which veterans**  
6 **may have particular need.**

7 **SECTION 2. As used in sections 1 to 5 of this 2021 Act:**

8 (1) "Eligible resident" means:

9 (a) A veteran; or

10 (b) An immediate family member of a veteran, including a surviving immediate family  
11 member.

12 (2) "Oregon Veterans' Community" means the community established under section 3 of  
13 this 2021 Act.

14 (3) "Veteran" has the meaning given that term in ORS 408.225.

15 **SECTION 3. (1) The Director of Veterans' Affairs shall establish the Oregon Veterans'**  
16 **Community, which shall comprise residential units to house eligible residents and medical**  
17 **and social services for the benefit of eligible residents.**

18 (2) The director shall enter into a contract with a nongovernmental entity for the con-  
19 struction, operation and management of the community. The contract executed under this  
20 section is subject to the requirements of ORS chapters 279A and 279B and must provide that:

21 (a) The contractor is responsible for hiring and maintaining the necessary staff for the  
22 community;

23 (b) The director will assign one or more state employees, in the discretion of the director,  
24 to provide oversight of the management of the facility; and

25 (c) Residence and access to services in the community be limited to eligible residents.

26 **SECTION 4. (1) The Oregon Veterans' Community Account is established in the State**  
27 **Treasury, separate and distinct from the General Fund. Interest earned by the account must**  
28 **be credited to the account.**

**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 (2) The account consists of:

2 (a) Moneys received by the Director of Veterans' Affairs that relate to the development,  
3 operation or maintenance of the Oregon Veterans' Community, including but not limited to  
4 fees and charges charged to residents;

5 (b) Moneys appropriated, allocated, deposited or transferred to the fund by the Legisla-  
6 tive Assembly or otherwise; and

7 (c) Interest earned on moneys in the fund.

8 (3) The moneys in the fund are continuously appropriated to the Department of Veterans'  
9 Affairs to pay expenses that the director determines are appropriate for developing, operat-  
10 ing and maintaining the Oregon Veterans' Community including, but not limited to, providing  
11 care and services to residents and the costs of administration incurred by the director.

12 **SECTION 5.** (1) When such power is conferred or contained in their charters or acts of  
13 incorporation, incorporated cities may purchase, receive, take and acquire by eminent do-  
14 main, or otherwise, and within or without corporate limits, land and necessary or convenient  
15 means of access thereto by roads, ways, streets, railroad spurs, bridges, or the like, and sell  
16 or donate the same to the Department of Veterans' Affairs for purposes of the Oregon  
17 Veterans' Community. Such acquisition and donation shall be deemed for the general use and  
18 benefit of the inhabitants of any city exercising the powers granted by this section and for  
19 the general use and benefit of the veterans of the State of Oregon. For the purpose of exer-  
20 cising the power of eminent domain under this section or under the provision in any mu-  
21 nicipal charter based upon this section, such taking or acquisition shall be deemed to be for  
22 a public and municipal use.

23 (2) In connection with the exercise of the powers granted by this section, such incorpo-  
24 rated cities may incur such indebtedness and issue such bonds, warrants or other evidences  
25 of debt as their respective charters may authorize.

26 **SECTION 6.** For the purpose of exercising the powers conferred by section 5 of this 2021  
27 Act, any incorporated city may bring and maintain any suit or action for the appropriation,  
28 condemnation or taking of real property within or without its corporate limits, in fee simple  
29 or otherwise, including riparian rights, rights of way and other easements. The city may  
30 proceed to have such property appropriated and the compensation therefor determined and  
31 paid, in the manner provided by law for exercising of the power of eminent domain by mu-  
32 nicipal corporations.

33 **SECTION 7.** There is allocated for the biennium beginning July 1, 2021, from the Admin-  
34 istrative Services Economic Development Fund, to the Department of Veterans' Affairs, the  
35 amount of \$\_\_\_ for deposit in the Oregon Veterans' Community Account established under  
36 section 4 of this 2021 Act.

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