

PRELIMINARY STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

CARRIER:

Senate Committee on Veterans and Emergency Preparedness

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Minimal fiscal impact, no statement issued

SUBSEQUENT REFERRAL TO: Business and Transportation

Action:

Vote:

Yeas:

Nays:

Exc.:

Prepared By: Cheyenne Ross, Administrator

Meeting Dates: 2/14, 2/21

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Permits portion of Interstate 84 to be designated the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Highway.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Full turnaround in public opinion with regard to Vietnam-era veterans
- Symbolic meaning of a memorial highway

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:

BACKGROUND: A majority of other states honor their Vietnam veterans with the dedication of a memorial highway. More than 57,000 Oregonians served in the Vietnam War, and more than twice that number now live in Oregon. The Oregon State Council of Vietnam Veterans of America has offered to fund the installation of appropriate signage, and Senate Bill 461 permits the Department of Transportation to work with them so that Interstate 84, from Oregon’s border with Idaho, west to the point where it meets Interstate 5, will be known as the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Highway.