

Joint Committee on Ways and Means

Carrier – House: Rep. Matthews
Carrier – Senate: Sen. Girod

Revenue: No revenue impact

Fiscal: Minimal fiscal impact, no statement issued

Action: Do Pass the B-Engrossed Measure as Amended and be Printed C-Engrossed

Vote: 23 – 1 – 2

House

Yeas: Barker, Buckley, Frederick, Freeman, Hanna, Huffman, Jenson, Komp, Nathanson, Read, Richardson, Smith, Williamson

Nays: Tomei

Exc: McLane

Senate

Yeas: Bates, Devlin, Edwards, Girod, Hansell, Johnson, Monroe, Steiner Hayward, Whitsett, Winters

Nays:

Exc: Thomsen

Prepared By: Krista McDowell, Legislative Fiscal Office

Meeting Date: March 5, 2014

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Permits dedication of “Warm Springs Veterans Memorial Highway” on a portion of U.S. Highway 26 within Warm Springs Reservation. States that private employers may prefer to hire and promote service members; veterans; surviving spouses of deceased veterans; and spouses of veterans totally disabled from enemy action or service-related accident. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Potential for a raffle to benefit veterans or other causes, such as mental health, in the 2015-17 biennium
- Desire to draft a budget note to direct the State Lottery to research the feasibility of a raffle to benefit veterans
- Hiring preferences in the bill apply to the general public but do not supersede protected class status
- ODOT and Warm Springs Veterans have worked together to plan for minor expenses associated with the sign

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: Strikes language related to a lottery game, of which proceeds were directed to benefit education and economic development for veterans.

BACKGROUND: There are 499 veterans who are members of the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon. In addition to sharing experiences with all veterans, they have a unique history and heritage, being members of a sovereign nation located within Oregon’s borders, who have served the United States through conflicts going back to the founding of the Warm Springs Reservation and the Early Indian Wars, to present day, with courage and distinction. House Bill 4023B names a portion of U.S. Highway 26 within the boundaries of the Warm Springs Reservation in their honor, the “Warm Springs Veterans Memorial Highway.”

Reintegration to civilian life is a challenging transition for many veterans. Employment provides stability that improves outcomes for veterans and their families. In support of veterans, many private employers prefer to hire and promote veterans and their spouses.