

Enrolled
House Bill 4023

Introduced and printed pursuant to House Rule 12.00. Pre-session filed (at the request of House Interim Committee on Veterans' Services and Emergency Preparedness)

CHAPTER

AN ACT

Relating to veterans; and declaring an emergency.

Whereas the Warm Springs Reservation was founded by the Treaty with the Tribes of Middle Oregon, 12 Stat. 963 (1855); and

Whereas the sovereign tribes and bands, now recognized as the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon, have continued to operate, governing under a constitutional form of government; and

Whereas veterans who are members of the Confederated Tribes have served the United States of America with distinction and honor and have made willing sacrifices during our nation's wars, conflicts and national security missions dating to the Early Indian Wars of Oregon; and

Whereas the State of Oregon has honored veterans, including veterans of foreign wars, with honorific signs on U.S. Highway 97, Interstate 84, Interstate 205, State Highway 126 and State Highway 62 as a tribute to all of the men and women who have answered our nation's call to military service; and

Whereas the State of Oregon has not designated any highway in Oregon to honor the unique history and heritage of veterans of the Confederated Tribes since the founding of the Warm Springs Reservation; and

Whereas an approximately 35-mile section of U.S. Highway 26, which traverses the Warm Springs Reservation, lies within a right of way granted by the United States in accordance with 25 U.S.C. 311 and is not named for or designated to honor any veteran; and

Whereas an honorary designation of the portion of U.S. Highway 26 that traverses the Warm Springs Reservation does not require a change in the name or designation of the highway; and

Whereas The Museum at Warm Springs on U.S. Highway 26 contains memorials and displays commemorating a call to serve our nation in the defense of peace, freedom and vital national interests by veterans who are members of the Confederated Tribes; and

Whereas 499 veterans who are members of the Confederated Tribes are listed as having answered our nation's call to duty and served with honor, dedication and selfless conviction, and some of those veterans made the supreme sacrifice, giving their lives in defense of our nation during the following eras of armed hostilities and related missions:

- Early Indian Wars of Oregon (Modoc and Snake Indian Wars) - 97;
- World War I - 14;
- World War II - 114;
- Korean War - 97;
- Vietnam War - 107;
- Global War on Terrorism - 70; and

Whereas Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 4217 in Warm Springs is named in honor of Elliott Palmer, an Army veteran killed during World War II; and

Whereas American Legion Post 48 is named in honor of Eugene A. "Cougar" Greene Sr., a distinguished recipient of the Army Silver Star, which he earned in the Korean War for conspicuous courage under enemy fire; and

Whereas designation of U.S. Highway 26 as the Warm Springs Veterans Memorial Highway will preserve and foster a sense of patriotism and honor the enduring warrior spirit for all tribal veterans and their families, tribal members, all military veterans and highway travelers; and

Whereas the Warm Springs community and veterans have offered to pay for the design, fabrication, installation and maintenance of signs meeting standards of the Department of Transportation without cost to taxpayers or the State of Oregon; now, therefore,

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

SECTION 1. (1) **The portion of U.S. Highway 26 within the Warm Springs Reservation shall be known as the Warm Springs Veterans Memorial Highway.**

(2) **The Department of Transportation shall place and maintain suitable markers along the highway described in this section that indicate the designation of the highway as the Warm Springs Veterans Memorial Highway.**

(3)(a) **The department may accept moneys from, and may enter into agreements with, veterans groups to create, install and maintain the markers.**

(b) **The department may not use public funds for the installation and maintenance of the markers.**

SECTION 2. (1) **As used in this section, "service" and "uniformed service" have the meanings given those terms in ORS 659A.082.**

(2) **A private, nonpublic employer may give preference in the hiring and promotion of employees to:**

(a) **A person who is performing, or has performed, service in the uniformed service;**

(b) **If a person has performed service in the uniformed service and has been determined by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs to be permanently and totally disabled as the result of enemy action or a service-related accident, the spouse of the person; and**

(c) **The widow or widower of a person who performed service in the uniformed service.**

SECTION 3. **This 2014 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2014 Act takes effect on its passage.**

Passed by House February 17, 2014

Repassed by House March 7, 2014

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Ramona J. Line, Chief Clerk of House

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Tina Kotek, Speaker of House

Passed by Senate March 7, 2014

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Peter Courtney, President of Senate

Received by Governor:

.....M,....., 2014

Approved:

.....M,....., 2014

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John Kitzhaber, Governor

Filed in Office of Secretary of State:

.....M,....., 2014

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Kate Brown, Secretary of State