

PRELIMINARY STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**CARRIER:**

House Committee on Veterans and Emergency Preparedness

REVENUE: No revenue impact**FISCAL: No fiscal impact****SUBSEQUENT REFERRAL: None****Action:****Vote:****Yeas:****Nays:****Exc.:****Prepared By:** Bryan Guiney, Administrator**Meeting Dates:** 3/5, 3/19

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Requires procurement and display of National League of Families' POW/MIA flag on all state buildings and county courthouses with existing flagpoles, year-round.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- The Joint Personnel Recovery Agency (JPRA) is the lead agent for active missions to locate and recover missing service members or their remains
- 98 Oregonians are still missing or unaccounted for from foreign wars
- Oregon Revised Statute § 187.220 specifies that the state, counties, and cities will display the National League of POW/MIA Families flag six days a year
- 2002 the Washington State Legislature passed a law directing every state agency, institute of higher education and county, cities and towns to display the National League of POW/MIA Families flag along with the state and national flags on specific days

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: [Proposed -1 amendment] Changes requirement to display National League of Families' POW/MIA Flag from all public buildings to public buildings that have existing flagpoles or other infrastructure installed to properly display the United States, State of Oregon, and the POW/MIA flag. Specifies that any public building that is newly constructed on or after the effective date of this 2015 Act shall include sufficient infrastructure to properly display all three flags simultaneously.

BACKGROUND: The National League of Families' POW/MIA flag symbolizes our nation's concern and commitment to resolving, as far as possible, the fates of Americans still prisoner, missing, and unaccounted for in Southeast Asia. The location and days for display of the POW/MIA flag are governed by 36 U.S.C. § 902, and include the Capitol, the White House, each national war memorial and cemetery, and a number of other distinguished locations, on Armed Forces Day, Memorial Day, Flag Day, Independence Day, National POW/MIA Recognition Day, and Veterans Day.

House Bill 2539 requires each state building and county courthouse to procure and display the National League of Families POW/MIA flag, with the State of Oregon and United States' flags.

3/19/2015 8:43:00 AM *

This summary has not been adopted or officially endorsed by action of the committee.

Committee Services Form – 2015 Regular Session