

Seventy-Eighth Oregon Legislative Assembly - 2015 Regular Session
STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY
House Committee On Veterans and Emergency Preparedness

MEASURE: HB 2892 A
CARRIER: Rep. Esquivel

Fiscal: Has minimal fiscal impact

Revenue: No Revenue Impact

Action Date: 03/19/15

Action: Do Pass As Amended And Be Printed Engrossed.

Meeting Dates: 03/05, 03/19

Vote:

Yeas: 7 - Boone, Esquivel, Evans, Huffman, Lively, Parrish, Piluso

Prepared By: Bryan Guiney, Committee Administrator

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. Requires all newly constructed public buildings be capable of properly displaying national, state and POW/MIA flags simultaneously.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Role and mission of Joint Personnel Recovery Agency (JPRA), to locate and recover missing service members or their remains
- Number of Oregonians still missing or unaccounted for from foreign wars (98)
- Similar legislation in Washington state

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE 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 means to properly display national, state and POW/MIA flags. Requires all newly constructed public buildings be capable of displaying 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 USC § 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. Oregon Revised Statute 187.220 specifies that the state, counties and cities will display the National League of Families' POW/MIA flag six days a year.

House Bill 2892-A requires each state building and county courthouse with existing means to properly display three flags, to procure and display the National League of Families' POW/MIA flag year-round, along with the State of Oregon and United States flags. The measure also requires all newly constructed public buildings to include means to properly display all three flags.