

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

MEASURE: SB 717
CARRIER: Sen. Steiner Hayward

Fiscal: Has minimal fiscal impact

Revenue: No Revenue Impact

Action Date: 04/07/15

Action: Do Pass.

Meeting Dates: 03/31, 04/07

Vote:

Yeas: 4 - Boquist, Monnes Anderson, Olsen, President Courtney

Prepared By: Cheyenne Ross, Committee Administrator

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Amends statute governing memorial road signs to include Army Specialist John Alexander Pelham. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Service and sacrifice of John Pelham
- Process to obtain memorial road sign

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

In 2011, the Legislature passed House Bill 3039, establishing the Roadside Memorial Fund to enable the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) to erect roadside memorial signs commemorating law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty. Pursuant to House Bill 3039, signs are erected when a concurrent resolution recognizing the police officer is adopted by the Legislature and ODOT receives funds to cover the cost of installation and maintenance. In 2013, the Legislature passed two more measures, House Bills 2708 and 3494, in an attempt to expand the availability of roadside memorial signs to include members of the Armed Forces killed in action. Currently pending before the 78th Legislative Assembly is House Bill 2389, which if it passes, will standardize the method to recognize both fallen law enforcement officers and servicemembers via passage of a concurrent resolution.

Senate Bill 717 is a companion measure to Senate Concurrent Resolution 7, honoring Army Specialist John Alexander Pelham, who died on February 12, 2014, from wounds sustained in an exchange of small arms fire on his second tour of duty in Afghanistan. If House Bill 2389 becomes law, Senate Concurrent Resolution 7 will enable the installation of a roadside memorial sign. If House Bill 2389 does *not* become law, Senate Bill 717 will enable the installation of a roadside memorial sign.