

STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Business and Transportation

Fiscal: Has minimal fiscal impact

Revenue: No Revenue Impact

Action Date: 04/06/15

Action: Do Pass.

Meeting Dates: 04/06

Vote:

Yeas: 3 - Beyer, Monroe, Riley

Exc: 2 - Girod, Thomsen

Prepared By: James LaBar, Committee Administrator

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Changes process by which an individual may receive recognition with a Fallen Hero roadside memorial sign. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Personal stories regarding memorial signs in other states
- Better aligning the legislative and grieving processes

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

In 2011, the Legislative Assembly created the Roadside Memorial Fund for the purpose of collecting moneys and appropriating them to the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) to cover the cost of erecting and maintaining roadside memorial signs commemorating law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty. The program specifies that such signs are erected when a concurrent resolution recognizing the fallen officer is adopted by the Legislative Assembly and ODOT has received the necessary funds. To date, 15 law enforcement officers have been memorialized through this program.

Two measures followed in 2013 (House Bill 2708 and House Bill 3494), which expanded on this model by permitting Fallen Hero roadside memorial signs for active duty members of the Armed Forces killed in action. The two measures specified four such memorial signs be erected: for Eric McKinley, on Oregon Route 34 near milepost 50; for Tyler Troyer, on Oregon Route 34 near milepost 4; for Kevin Dewayne Davis, on Oregon Route 34 near milepost 15; and for Adam Buyes, on Oregon Route 22 near milepost 20.

House Bill 2389 revises the method for recognition of individuals with a Fallen Hero roadside memorial sign in order to align the program with the Fallen Officer roadside memorial sign program.