

House Bill 2659

Sponsored by Representative OLSON; Representative KRIEGER (Pre-session filed.)

SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced**.

Provides that Interstate 5 shall be known as Purple Heart Trail.
Declares emergency, effective on passage.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1
2 Relating to the Purple Heart Trail; and declaring an emergency.

3 Whereas the State of Oregon has always supported its military veteran population; and

4 Whereas the Purple Heart is the oldest military decoration in present use and was initially
5 created as the Badge of Military Merit by General George Washington in 1782; and

6 Whereas the Purple Heart was the first American service award or decoration made available
7 to the regular soldier and is specifically awarded to those members of the United States Armed
8 Forces who were wounded or made the ultimate sacrifice in combat with a declared enemy of the
9 United States of America; and

10 Whereas the mission of the Military Order of the Purple Heart is to foster an environment of
11 goodwill among combat-wounded veterans and surviving families of soldiers, to promote patriotism,
12 to support further legislative initiatives and, most important, to make sure we never forget; and

13 Whereas the Purple Heart Trail was established in 1992 by the Military Order of the Purple
14 Heart; and

15 Whereas the stated purpose of the Purple Heart Trail is "to create a symbolic and honorary
16 system of roads, highways, bridges and other monuments that give tribute to the men and women
17 who have been awarded the Purple Heart medal"; and

18 Whereas the Purple Heart Trail accomplishes this honorary goal by creating a visual reminder
19 to those who use the road system that others have paid a high price for their freedom to travel and
20 live in a free society; and

21 Whereas designating Interstate 5 as a Purple Heart Trail will link the border to border Purple
22 Heart Trails on Interstate 5 in the State of California and the State of Washington, creating the only
23 Purple Heart Trail in the United States reaching to the borders of both Mexico and Canada; and

24 Whereas the Military Order of the Purple Heart has offered to provide the funds necessary for
25 creating, installing and maintaining the Purple Heart Trail markers; now, therefore,

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

27 **SECTION 1. (1) The portion of Interstate 5 crossing the State of Oregon, beginning at the**
28 **California state line and ending at the Washington state line, shall also be known as the**
29 **Purple Heart Trail.**

30 **(2) The Department of Transportation shall place and maintain suitable markers along**
31 **the highway described in this section to indicate the designation of the highway as the Purple**

NOTE: Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter *[italic and bracketed]* is existing law to be omitted.
New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 **Heart Trail.**

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

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

6 SECTION 2. This 2015 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public
7 peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2015 Act takes effect
8 on its passage.

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