

HB 2100 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Veterans and Emergency Preparedness

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Meeting Dates: 4/25

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Designates portion of U.S. Highway 20 between Newport, Oregon, and Idaho state line the "Oregon Medal of Honor Highway." Directs installation and maintenance of signage by Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) at rest areas and turnarounds identifying individual Medal of Honor recipients, as specified. Prohibits use of public funds. Takes effect 91st day after *sine die*.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

[A2 amendment] Changes number of wars from seven to eight. Changes number of communities associated with a recipient from 11 to 12. Lists each state through which highway 20 travels. Changes the number of accredited recipients from 1,987 to 1,947. Changes the percentage of total recipients honored from about 50 to about 55. Replaces "signs" with "signs or markers." Makes installation of signage at rest areas and turnouts discretionary. Replaces year of receipt of award, with the name of the war or campaign. Requires ODOT to add future recipients. Requires ODOT to include images of medals, and for signage at rest areas or turnouts to include quick response codes, and be accessible to disabled persons.

BACKGROUND:

The Medal of Honor is the nation's highest award for military valor. Oregon has been home to 26 Medal of Honor recipients from the Civil War to the Vietnam War.

House Bill 2100-A allows these 26 recipients to be recognized along the portion of U.S. Highway 20, beginning in Newport, Oregon, and ending at the Idaho state line, with the installation of memorial road signs designating it the "Oregon Medal of Honor Highway."