

**HB 3207 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**

**Joint Committee On Ways and Means**

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**Prepared By:** Gregory Jolivette, Budget Analyst

**Meeting Dates:** 6/27, 6/30

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

Names I-5 between Albany and Salem the "Atomic Veterans Memorial Highway."

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Definition of atomic veteran
- Sources of funding

**EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:**

No amendment.

**BACKGROUND:**

The United States government engaged in atmospheric and underwater nuclear weapons testing from July 16, 1945, to November 4, 1962, exposing an estimated 200,000 or more United States military service members to unsafe levels of radiation. These veterans became known as atomic veterans. These veterans were unable to discuss their exposure until nuclear weapons testing was declassified many years later. Many veterans died before they were able to seek treatment. The United States Department of Veterans' Affairs has identified more than 20 cancers and diseases associated with exposure. Many atomic veterans were exposed without their knowledge, their consent or any subsequent disclosure.