

HB 2100 B STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Carrier: Sen. Knopp

Senate Committee On Veterans and Emergency Preparedness

Action Date: 05/23/17

Action: Do pass with amendments to the A-Eng bill. (Printed B-Eng.)

Vote: 3-0-1-0

Yeas: 3 - Boquist, Monnes Anderson, President Courtney

Exc: 1 - Olsen

Fiscal: Has minimal fiscal impact

Revenue: No revenue impact

Prepared By: C. Ross, LPRO Analyst

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Designates portion of U.S. Highway 20 between Newport, Oregon, and Idaho state line the "Oregon Medal of Honor Highway" and directs Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) to install and maintain signage. Permits ODOT to install and maintain further signage at rest areas and turnouts identifying individual Medal of Honor recipients. Names each recipient and references 12 Medal of Honor cities and communities in Oregon associated with recipients. Prohibits use of public funds. Takes effect 91st day following adjournment *sine die*.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Work of the Bend Heroes Foundation, Dick Tobiason, and Bob Maxwell
- Symbolism of border-to-border highway designation: public acknowledgement, gratitude and remembrance
- ODOT cooperation and commitment

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

Permits, rather than requires, ODOT to install and maintain signage at rest areas and turnouts along Highway 20 identifying current and future individual Medal of Honor recipients. Reorganizes content of underlying measure. Changes number of wars from seven to eight. Changes number of communities associated with recipients from 11 to 12. References HCR 1 (2017) and lists each community designated a Medal of Honor community. Describes intent to install signs for individual recipients in corresponding communities. Changes percentage of total recipients honored from about 50 to about 57 percent.

BACKGROUND:

The Medal of Honor is the nation's highest award for military valor. From the Civil War to the Vietnam War, 26 Medal of Honor recipients have called Oregon home. Currently, only one recipient is living in Oregon, who is also the nation's oldest Medal of Honor recipient.

House Bill 2100B designates Highway 20 from Newport to the border with Idaho, the Oregon Medal of Honor Highway. It directs the Oregon Department of Transportation to install signs and markers identifying it as such, and authorizes additional signage at rest areas and turnouts to honor Oregon's 26 Medal of Honor recipients by name.