

HB 2195 -1 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Veterans and Emergency Preparedness

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Sub-Referral To: Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Meeting Dates: 2/19

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Dedicates a portion of the State Capitol State Park to a Vietnam War memorial. Exempts the memorial from certain land use laws. Establishes the Vietnam Memorial Task Force to arrange for development, design, and construction of a memorial to honor Oregon's Vietnam War veterans. Directs Department of Veterans' Affairs to maintain the finished memorial. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

NOTE - measure has a subsequent referral to the Committee on Ways and Means

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-1 Relocates proposed memorial to southwest corner of State Capitol State Park, just to the south of the World War II memorial. Specifies that the memorial shall be of sufficient size to accommodate the design of the Task Force. Directs Department of Veterans' Affairs to maintain the finished memorial.

BACKGROUND:

A memorial dedicated to the Vietnam War veterans of Oregon was dedicated in 1987 in Washington Park in Portland. Other Vietnam War memorials in Oregon are located in Beaverton, Bend, Canby, Eagle Point, Enterprise, Eugene, Richland, Rogue River, and Salem.

Other memorials and monuments on the State Capitol grounds include: a replica of the Liberty Bell outside the west entrance; statues of Jason Lee, John McLoughlin, and a Circuit Rider in Capitol Park on the east side of the grounds; memorials to the state's Medal of Honor recipients surrounding the U.S. Flag and State Flag; the Walk of the Flags of the 50 states and nine federally recognized Native American tribes in Willson Park to the west of the Capitol; the Sprague Fountain just west of the Walk of the Flags; and the Oregon World War II Memorial on the northwest edge of the grounds.