



**House Veterans and Emergency Preparedness Committee
Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs Testimony | February 19, 2019
House Bill 2195 and -1 Amendments**

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Background

House Bill 2195 dedicates a portion of the State Capital State Park to a Vietnam War Memorial and establishes a Vietnam War Memorial Task Force. The -1 amendment accomplishes the following:

- Changes the location of the memorial to the southwest corner of the park;
- Establishes that the ODVA is responsible for maintenance of the memorial
- Established that one of the duties of the Task Force is to apply for one or more grants from the Veterans and War Memorial Grant Program administered by the State Parks and Recreation Department; and
- Establishes the Task Force as an entity that meets the qualifications to apply for a grant from the Veterans and War Memorial Grant Program.

The Oregon nonprofit organization that was established as a Vietnam War Memorial on the grounds of the state capital is an Oregon nonprofit called the “Vietnam War Memorial Fund.”

Potential Amendments

The Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs is working with the Vietnam War Memorial Fund to consider possible amendments, including the following provisions that clarify the role of the Task Force and the role of the nonprofit as a member of the Task Force through the following provisions:

- State a defined number of Task Force members and organization that is represented.
- Distinguish the work of the Task Force from the work of the nonprofit.
- State that Task Force the meetings are public meetings and must follow the requirements of the Oregon Public meetings and Public Records Laws.
- State that Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs will staff the Task Force.
- State the non-profit shall hold and expend funds for the project.
- Note: The bill requires the Task Force to “arrange for the development, design and construction” (original bill, page 2, line 1) for “the memorial design approved by the Vietnam War Memorial Task Force” (-1 amendment, page 1, line 18). Clarify whether it is the responsibility of the Task Force to approve design or if this is the responsibility of the nonprofit organization.
- Clarify whether the role of the Task Force is to solicit funding or the role of the non-profit; and that the Task Force will not hold funds for the memorial.