

SB 441 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Carrier: Sen. Knopp

Senate Committee On Veterans and Emergency Preparedness

Action Date: 03/16/21

Action: Do pass with amendments. (Printed A-Eng.)

Vote: 3-1-0-0

Yeas: 3 - Manning Jr, Patterson, Thomsen

Nays: 1 - Linthicum

Fiscal: No fiscal impact

Revenue: No revenue impact

Prepared By: Regina Wilson, LPRO Analyst

Meeting Dates: 2/11, 3/16

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Expands roadside memorial signage for veterans killed in action to include those who were formerly designated as either prisoners of war or unaccounted for by the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency, with certain requirements. Takes effect 91st day following adjournment sine die.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Roadside memorial signage honoring Prisoners of War (POW)/Missing in Action (MIA)
- National POW/MIA Recognition Day
- POW/MIA statistics

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

Includes the adoption of a concurrent resolution by the Legislative Assembly, consistent with existing process requirements for roadside memorials.

BACKGROUND:

In 2011, the Legislative Assembly established a Roadside Memorial Fund to receive and allocate moneys to the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) to erect memorial signs in honor of law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty. In 2013, the Legislative Assembly expanded the program to provide for roadside memorials in honor of fallen members of the Armed Forces. Between 2016 and 2018, thirty veterans were memorialized in this way.

Senate Bill 441 A allows for roadside memorial signs to be installed for service members killed in the line of duty who were previously designated as either prisoners of war or unaccounted for by the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency, with certain stipulations.