

HB 2700 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Carrier: Sen. Thomsen

Senate Committee On Veterans and Emergency Preparedness

Action Date: 04/27/21
Action: Do pass.
Vote: 3-1-0-0
Yeas: 3 - Manning Jr, Patterson, Thomsen
Nays: 1 - Linthicum
Fiscal: Has minimal fiscal impact
Revenue: No revenue impact
Prepared By: Regina Wilson, LPRO Analyst
Meeting Dates: 3/30, 4/27

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, without the adoption of a concurrent resolution by the Legislative Assembly that would otherwise be required. Takes effect on 91st day following adjournment sine die.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Recognition of service members listed as missing in action from WW I to the present
- Similar measure not enacted, House Bill 4083 (2020)
- Relationship to companion measure, Senate Bill 441 (2021)

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

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. Currently, the process to install a memorial sign begins with the adoption of a concurrent resolution by the Legislative Assembly, acknowledging the individual's service and sacrifice. Between 2016 and 2018, thirty service members were memorialized in this way.

House Bill 2700 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, without the adoption of a concurrent resolution, with certain stipulations.