

House Bill 2644

Sponsored by Representatives POST, EVANS (Pre-session filed.)

SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced**.

Renames portion of Interstate 5, beginning in Albany and ending in Salem, to Atomic Veterans and Atomic Cleanup Veterans Memorial Highway.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1 Relating to atomic cleanup veterans; creating new provisions; and amending ORS 366.924.

2 Whereas the testing of nuclear weapons by the United States resulted in severe contamination
3 of certain geographical sites in the Marshall Islands; and

4 Whereas thousands of individuals serving in the United States military between 1977 and 1980
5 participated in cleanup and decontamination efforts at such sites; and

6 Whereas these individuals, in the course of their military service, lived, breathed, ate, worked,
7 slept and swam in decades of accumulated radioactive fallout; and

8 Whereas numerous individuals in this cohort have since developed distinct cancers and disease
9 processes attributable to exposure to radioactive materials; now, therefore,

10 **Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:**

11 **SECTION 1. The Legislative Assembly finds and declares that the United States federal**
12 **government has not sufficiently recognized the sacrifice of veterans who participated in**
13 **cleanup and decontamination efforts between 1977 and 1980 of nuclear testing sites in the**
14 **Marshall Islands.**

15 **SECTION 2.** ORS 366.924 is amended to read:

16 366.924. (1) The portion of U.S. Highway 395, crossing the State of Oregon, beginning at the
17 California state line and ending at the Washington state line, shall also be known as the World War
18 I Veterans Memorial Highway.

19 (2) The portion of Interstate 5, crossing the State of Oregon, beginning at the California state
20 line and ending at the Washington state line, shall also be known as the Korean War Veterans
21 Memorial Highway, and as the Purple Heart Trail.

22 (3) The portion of Interstate 5, beginning in Albany and ending in Salem, shall also be known
23 as the Atomic Veterans **and Atomic Cleanup Veterans** Memorial Highway.

24 (4) The portion of U.S. Highway 101, crossing the State of Oregon, beginning at the California
25 state line and ending at the Washington state line, shall also be known as the Persian Gulf,
26 Afghanistan and Iraq Veterans Memorial Highway.

27 (5) The portion of U.S. Highway 26, beginning where the highway intersects with U.S. Highway
28 101 and ending at the Idaho state line, shall also be known as the POW/MIA Memorial Highway.

29 (6) The Department of Transportation shall place and maintain suitable markers along each
30 highway described in this section to indicate the designation of each highway.
31

NOTE: Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter *[italic and bracketed]* is existing law to be omitted.
New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 (7)(a) The department may accept moneys from and may enter into agreements with veterans
2 groups to create, install and maintain the markers.

3 (b) The department may not use public funds for the installation and maintenance of the mark-
4 ers.

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