

A-Engrossed
Senate Bill 790

Ordered by the Senate March 26
Including Senate Amendments dated March 26

Sponsored by Senator KNOPP (at the request of LTC Dick Tobiason)

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.

Provides that portion of U.S. Highway 30 in Oregon shall also be known as Oregon Veterans Memorial Highway.

Takes effect on 91st day following adjournment sine die.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1
2 Relating to memorial highways; creating new provisions; amending ORS 366.924; and prescribing an
3 effective date.

4 Whereas Oregon is presently home to about 303,700 living veterans; and

5 Whereas almost a half million Oregonians have served in the Armed Forces of the United States
6 during wars from World War I to the present; and

7 Whereas Oregon's war casualties from World War I to the present include almost 6,000 dead,
8 15,000 wounded, almost 1,000 Prisoners of War, 999 Missing in Action and 30 Medal of Honor re-
9 cipients; and

10 Whereas over the last 12 years the Bend Heroes Foundation initiated legislation honoring nearly
11 a half million Oregon war veterans of the Armed Forces from World War I to the present with eight
12 border-to-border veterans highways displaying over 90 large highway signs installed at no expense
13 to taxpayers on U.S. Highway 395 (World War I), U.S. Highway 97 (World War II), Interstate 5
14 (Korean War/Purple Heart Trail), Interstate 84 (Vietnam War), U.S. Highway 101 (Persian Gulf,
15 Afghanistan, Iraq Wars), U.S. Highway 20 (Oregon Medal of Honor) and U.S. Highway 26 (POW/MIA
16 Memorial); and

17 Whereas about 110,000 veterans served during peacetime between the five major wars when
18 about 480,000 Oregonians served; and

19 Whereas about 70,900 or 23 percent of the 303,700 veterans presently living in Oregon served
20 during peacetime; and

21 Whereas Bend Heroes Foundation is coordinating the designation of 11 state Medal of Honor
22 Highways east of Oregon across the United States on U.S. Highway 20; and

23 Whereas U.S. Highway 30 in Oregon, at 477 miles in length between Astoria and Ontario, is the
24 longest border-to-border highway in Oregon; and

25 Whereas U.S. Highway 30 in Oregon is the only border-to-border highway not now designated
26 to honor veterans; and

27 Whereas U.S. Highway 30, at 3,073 miles in length, spans our nation from Astoria, Oregon, to
28 Atlantic City, New Jersey, traversing 11 states with Oregon's segment the longest, and is the third

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 longest highway in our nation; and

2 Whereas the designation of U.S. Highway 30 as an Oregon Veterans Memorial Highway will
3 honor all past, present and future wartime and peacetime veterans connected with Oregon and might
4 encourage similar designations of state Veterans Memorial Highways across the United States; and

5 Whereas U.S. Highway 30 in part overlaps the 377 mile Vietnam Veterans Memorial Highway
6 for most of its length and the World War I Veterans Memorial Highway for about 22 miles; and

7 Whereas U.S. Highway 30 has numerous historic names that will be preserved with the desig-
8 nation of the Oregon Veterans Memorial Highway; and

9 Whereas the Armed Forces of the United States presently includes the United States Army,
10 Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force, Space Force, Coast Guard and Army and Air Force National Guard;
11 and

12 Whereas Oregon's veterans have offered to finance the fabrication, installation and maintenance
13 of special markers for the Oregon Veterans Memorial Highway; now, therefore,

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

15 **SECTION 1.** 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 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 portion of U.S. Highway 30, beginning where the highway intersects with U.S.**
30 **Highway 101 and ending at the Idaho state line, shall also be known as the Oregon Veterans**
31 **Memorial Highway.**

32 [(6)] (7) The Department of Transportation shall place and maintain suitable markers along each
33 highway described in this section to indicate the designation of each highway.

34 **(8) For new highway markers erected on U.S. Highway 30 pursuant to subsection (6) of**
35 **this section, the department shall seek approval from the Federal Highway Administration,**
36 **United States Department of Defense and United States Department of Homeland Security**
37 **to include military service seals on the markers. After receiving approval, the Department**
38 **of Transportation shall include the following military service seals representing:**

39 **(a) The Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps and Coast Guard of the United States; and**

40 **(b) The National Guard.**

41 [(7)(a)] **(9)(a)** The department may accept moneys from and may enter into agreements with
42 veterans groups to create, install and maintain the markers.

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

45 **SECTION 2. The amendments to ORS 366.924 by section 1 of this 2021 Act apply to new**

1 **highway markers erected on U.S. Highway 30 on or after the effective date of this 2021 Act.**

2 **SECTION 3. This 2021 Act takes effect on the 91st day after the date on which the 2021**

3 **regular session of the Eighty-first Legislative Assembly adjourns sine die.**

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