

HB 3001 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Emergency Management, General Government, and Veterans

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Sub-Referral To: Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Meeting Dates: 2/2

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Directs the Department of Transportation to waive the fee for a Fallen Hero roadside memorial highway sign if the applicant is a Gold Star family member and funds are appropriated or otherwise made available to the Department for the purpose of paying the fees. Directs Department to waive the surcharge for the Gold Star Family vehicle registration plate if the applicant is a Gold Star Family member and funds are appropriated or otherwise made available to the Department for the purpose of paying the surcharge.

NOTE - measure has a subsequent referral to the Committee on Ways and Means.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

In 2013, Oregon enacted legislation that honored five Oregonians who were killed in the line of duty while serving in the U.S. Armed Forces. Two years later, the Legislative Assembly enacted House Bill 2389 (2015), establishing the Fallen Hero memorial program. Through the program, the Legislative Assembly may enact a concurrent resolution for an individual killed in action, or who is recognized as a prisoner of war or missing in action (POW/MIA) if the individual's remains have been recovered. Once a resolution is adopted, the applicant must submit an application along with a \$600 fee to cover the cost of the signage. Fifty individuals have been recognized throughout the program's existence.

The Oregon Department of Transportation's (ODOT) Driver and Motor Vehicle Services Division (DMV) offers specialty license plates to veterans, disabled veterans, and qualified family members of veterans. The plates denote branch of service, campaign or service medals, recognize permanently disabled veterans, and support service organizations. Qualified individuals pay a one-time, permanent fee for disabled veteran plates, while other veterans pay a fee at issuance and renewal.

House Bill 3001 directs ODOT to waive the fee for a Fallen Hero roadside memorial sign for Gold Star Family members if funds are appropriated for that purpose. The measure also directs DMV to waive the fee for veterans' recognition plates for Gold Star Family members if funds are appropriated for that purpose. A separate measure, House Bill 3000, appropriates \$20,000 for Fallen Hero roadside memorial signs, and \$5,000 for veterans' recognition plates, both from the General Fund.