

HB 2195 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Veterans and Emergency Preparedness

Action Date: 03/05/19

Action: Do pass with amendments
and be referred to Ways and Means by prior reference. (Printed A-Eng.)

Vote: 8-0-0-0

Yeas: 8 - Evans, Findley, Lewis, Meek, Neron, Wallan, Wilde, Zika

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: No revenue impact

Prepared By: Patrick Brennan, LPRO Analyst

Meeting Dates: 2/19, 3/5

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Dedicates portion of the State Capitol State Park to Vietnam War memorial. Exempts memorial from certain land use laws. Establishes Vietnam War Memorial Task Force to arrange for development, design, and construction of memorial to honor Oregon's Vietnam War veterans. Directs Department of Veterans' Affairs to maintain finished memorial. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Experience of many Vietnam veterans upon returning home after service
- Oregonians who served during Vietnam War
- Effect of committee amendment

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

Relocates proposed memorial to southwest corner of State Capitol State Park, south of World War II memorial. Specifies that the memorial shall be of sufficient size to accommodate design of Task Force. Directs Department of Veterans' Affairs to maintain finished memorial. Revises language related to Vietnam War Memorial Task Force.

BACKGROUND:

A memorial dedicated to the Vietnam War veterans of Oregon was dedicated in 1987 in Washington Park in Portland. Other Vietnam War memorials in Oregon are located in Beaverton, Bend, Canby, Eagle Point, Enterprise, Eugene, Richland, Rogue River, and Salem.

Other memorials and monuments on the State Capitol grounds include: a replica of the Liberty Bell outside the west entrance; statues of Jason Lee, John McLoughlin, and a Circuit Rider in Capitol Park on the east side of the grounds; memorials to the state's Medal of Honor recipients surrounding the U.S. Flag and State Flag; the Walk of the Flags of the 50 states and nine federally recognized Native American tribes in Willson Park to the west of the Capitol; the Sprague Fountain just west of the Walk of the Flags; and the Oregon World War II Memorial on the northwest edge of the grounds.