

SB 441 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Veterans and Emergency Preparedness

Prepared By: Regina Wilson, LPRO Analyst

Meeting Dates: 2/11

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Expands statute concerning roadside memorial signage of veterans killed or wounded while in action who were unaccounted for or formerly prisoners of war. Permits Legislative Assembly to adopt concurrent resolutions recognizing individuals killed in the line of duty who were formerly designated as either prisoners of war or unaccounted for by the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency with certain requirements. Effective 91st day after sine die.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

In 2011 the Legislative Assembly established a Roadside Memorial Fund to receive and allocate monies 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 Legislative Assembly must adopt a concurrent resolution that recognizes the individual being honored. Between 2016 and 2018, thirty veterans were memorialized in this way.

Senate Bill 441 permits the construction of roadside memorial signs 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 with certain stipulations, without the adoption of a concurrent resolution by the Legislative Assembly.