

SB 319 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Veterans and Emergency Management

Action Date: 05/18/21

Action: Do pass and be referred to Rules by prior reference

Vote: 6-0-0-0

Yeas: 6 - Evans, Grayber, Lewis, Meek, Wallan, Wright

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: No revenue impact

Prepared By: Cassie Passon, Counsel

Meeting Dates: 4/22, 5/18

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Dedicates a location on State Capitol State Park grounds for a Vietnam War memorial, exempt from certain land use restrictions. Directs Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD) to maintain completed memorial. Requires funding and installation by an Oregon nonprofit organization dedicated to establishing same. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Vietnam veterans and their service
- Domestic protests against Vietnam War
- Lingering effects of Vietnam War on veterans and families
- End of Vietnam War and return of veterans
- Third attempt to install a memorial on Capitol grounds
- Other memorials in Salem and/or on Capitol grounds
- History of project
- Next steps for project
- Memorial location
- Number of Oregonians who served in Vietnam

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

A local memorial honoring Vietnam War veterans of Oregon was dedicated in 1987 in Washington Park in Portland. A number of local governments have authorized the installation of Vietnam War memorials including Beaverton, Bend, Canby, Eagle Point, Enterprise, Eugene, Richland, Rogue River, and Salem.

State-sanctioned memorials and monuments on the grounds of the State Capitol include: a replica of the Liberty Bell outside the west entrance; statues of Jason Lee, John McLoughlin, and a Circuit Rider on the east side of the Capitol; 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 west of the Capitol; the Sprague Fountain just west of the Walk of the Flags; and the Oregon World War II Memorial in the northwest corner of the grounds surrounding the Capitol Building.

Senate Bill 319 dedicates a portion of State Capitol State Park grounds for a Vietnam War memorial, to be funded and installed by a nonprofit organization dedicated to its establishment.