

Enrolled
House Bill 2644

Sponsored by Representatives POST, EVANS; Representatives BOSHART DAVIS, CATE, HAYDEN, LEWIS, SMITH DB, WILDE, WRIGHT, Senator MANNING JR (Presession filed.)

CHAPTER

AN ACT

Relating to atomic cleanup veterans; creating new provisions; and amending ORS 366.924.

Whereas the testing of nuclear weapons by the United States resulted in severe contamination of certain geographical sites in the Marshall Islands; and

Whereas thousands of individuals serving in the United States military between 1962 and 1980 participated in cleanup and decontamination efforts at such sites; and

Whereas these individuals, in the course of their military service, lived, breathed, ate, worked, slept and swam in decades of accumulated radioactive fallout; and

Whereas numerous individuals in this cohort have since developed distinct cancers and disease processes attributable to exposure to radioactive materials; now, therefore,

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

SECTION 1. The Legislative Assembly finds and declares that the United States federal government has not sufficiently recognized the sacrifice of veterans who participated in cleanup and decontamination efforts between 1962 and 1980 of nuclear testing sites in the Marshall Islands.

SECTION 2. ORS 366.924 is amended to read:

366.924. (1) The portion of U.S. Highway 395, crossing the State of Oregon, beginning at the California state line and ending at the Washington state line, shall also be known as the World War I Veterans Memorial Highway.

(2) The portion of Interstate 5, crossing the State of Oregon, beginning at the California state line and ending at the Washington state line, shall also be known as the Korean War Veterans Memorial Highway, and as the Purple Heart Trail.

(3) The portion of Interstate 5, beginning in Albany and ending in Salem, shall also be known as the Atomic Veterans **and Atomic Cleanup Veterans** Memorial Highway.

(4) The portion of U.S. Highway 101, crossing the State of Oregon, beginning at the California state line and ending at the Washington state line, shall also be known as the Persian Gulf, Afghanistan and Iraq Veterans Memorial Highway.

(5) The portion of U.S. Highway 26, beginning where the highway intersects with U.S. Highway 101 and ending at the Idaho state line, shall also be known as the POW/MIA Memorial Highway.

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

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

(b) The department may not use public funds for the installation and maintenance of the markers.



Passed by House April 15, 2021

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Timothy G. Sekerak, Chief Clerk of House

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Tina Kotek, Speaker of House

Passed by Senate May 19, 2021

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Peter Courtney, President of Senate

Received by Governor:

.....M,....., 2021

Approved:

.....M,....., 2021

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Kate Brown, Governor

Filed in Office of Secretary of State:

.....M,....., 2021

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Shemia Fagan, Secretary of State