

SB 1509 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Veterans and Emergency Management

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Meeting Dates: 2/17, 2/22, 2/24

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Designates the portion of Oregon Route 35 between the intersections with U.S. Highway 26 and U.S. Highway 30 as the Oregon Nisei Veterans World War II Memorial Highway. Takes effect on 91st day following adjournment sine die.

FISCAL - minimal fiscal impact

REVENUE - no revenue impact

SENATE FLOOR VOTE - 22-0

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Examples of Japanese-Americans serving during World War II
- Internment of Japanese-Americans during World War II
- History of interment not taught in schools
- Past efforts to recognize service of Nisei veterans

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

The term "Nisei" refers to sons or daughters born in the United States to immigrants from Japan, the word translating literally as "second generation." A total of 120 second generation Japanese Americans served the United States during World War II; overall, over 33,000 Nisei served in the U.S. Armed Forces during World War II.

Several of Oregon's roadways honor veterans who served their country in the United States Armed Forces with honor and valor throughout recent history. These dedications include the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Highway, through passage of Senate Bill 461 (2013), and the Warm Springs Veterans Memorial Highway designated through passage of House Bill 4023 (2014). Furthermore, House Bill 2036 (2015) combined several border-to-border initiatives to honor veterans of the First World War; the Korean War; and the Persian Gulf, Afghanistan, and Iraq Wars, along with recipients of the Purple Heart, designated the Purple Heart Trail.

Senate Bill 1509 A renames Oregon Route 35 as the Oregon Nisei Veterans World War II Memorial Highway.