

SB 1509 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY
House Committee On Veterans and Emergency Management

Carrier: Rep. Williams

Action Date: 02/22/22
Action: Do Pass the A-Eng bill.
Vote: 6-0-0-0
Yeas: 6 - Evans, George, Grayber, Lewis, Meek, Wright
Fiscal: Has minimal fiscal impact
Revenue: No revenue impact
Prepared By: Patrick Brennan, LPRO Analyst
Meeting Dates: 2/17, 2/22

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Designates portion of Oregon Route 35 between 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.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Examples of Japanese-Americans serving during World War II
- Internment of Japanese-Americans during World War II
- Absence of history of internment 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. These dedications include the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Highway, designated by Senate Bill 461 (2013), and the Warm Springs Veterans Memorial Highway, designated by 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.