

HB 2840 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Emergency Management, General Government, and Veterans

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Meeting Dates: 2/7

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Allows additional forms of identification to be used to demonstrate status as a veteran for purposes of applying for veterans' recognition vehicle registration plates.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

The Driver and Motor Vehicle Services Division (DMV) of the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) offers a variety of recognition and specialty vehicle registration plates, in addition to the standard "tree plate" design. Most of these alternative designs include an additional surcharge; some, like the Pacific Wonderland plate, are a one-time fee, while others are paid at initial registration and at every subsequent registration renewal. Moneys generated by the surcharge are allocated to a specific purpose, such as salmon restoration.

In 2008, the Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs and ODOT created a program for veterans' recognition plates. A number of variants are offered, based on branches of service, campaigns, and specific medals. To qualify to procure veterans' recognition plates, applicants must provide Form DD214 or DD215, showing honorable military service, and/or Form 53-55, Enlisted Record and Report of Separation. Some service and medal recognition plates require additional documentation.

House Bill 2840 specifies that, for purpose of procuring veterans' recognition vehicle registration plates, an applicant may provide, as evidence of veteran status, a Veteran Identification Card issued by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, or other official materials sent by that Department that clearly demonstrate veteran status.