HB 2144 A   STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Carrier: Sen. Woods

Senate Committee On Veterans, Emergency Management, Federal and World Affairs

Action Date:	05/11/23
Action:	Do pass the A-Eng bill.
Vote:	3-0-1-2
Yeas:	3 - Manning Jr, President Wagner, Woods
Exc:	1 - Gorsek
Abs:	2 - Linthicum, Thatcher
Fiscal:	Has minimal fiscal impact
Revenue:	No revenue impact
Prepared By:	Regina Wilson, LPRO Analyst
Meeting Dates:	5/9, 5/11

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Removes the requirement that the remains of Armed Forces service members killed in the line of duty and formerly designated as either prisoners of war or unaccounted for by the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency be returned to Oregon to receive Fallen Hero roadside memorial recognition.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:
- House Bill 2700 (2021) memorial signage qualifications
- Identification of remains of U.S. Armed Forces members designated as POW/MIA
- Service members who met statutory criteria for roadside signage except for the "returned to Oregon" requirement

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

The Legislative Assembly enacted House Bill 3039 in 2011, directing the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) to erect and maintain roadside memorial signs for law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty. The measure also created the Roadside Memorial Fund and appropriated moneys for the purpose of constructing and maintaining roadside memorial signs. In 2013, the Legislative Assembly expanded the program to allow roadside memorials honoring fallen members of the U.S. Armed Forces.

House Bill 2700 (2021) permitted the installation of roadside memorial signs for service members killed in the line of duty previously designated as either a prisoner of war or unaccounted for by the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency. The measure specified that an individual's remains must be recovered, identified, and returned to Oregon.

House Bill 2144 A removes the roadside memorial qualification requirement that an individual's remains be returned to Oregon following recovery and identification.