

A-Engrossed
House Bill 2146

Ordered by the House January 30
Including House Amendments dated January 30

Introduced and printed pursuant to House Rule 12.00. Pre-session filed (at the request of House Interim Committee on Veterans and Emergency Management for LTC Dick Tobiason)

SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure.

Provides that portion of U.S. Highway 30, beginning where highway intersects with U.S. Highway 101 and ending at Idaho state line, shall also be known as Oregon Gold Star Families Memorial Highway.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1
2 Relating to Gold Star Families memorial highway; creating new provisions; and amending ORS
3 366.924.

4 Whereas almost 500,000 Oregonians served in our country's Armed Forces during five major
5 wars since World War I, with about 6,000 veterans making the ultimate sacrifice; and

6 Whereas Gold Star Families include parents, spouses, siblings, sons and daughters of fallen war
7 veterans, numbering as many as 15,000 family members from across Oregon over the last 104 years;
8 and

9 Whereas the Legislative Assembly has created many Blue Star Memorial Highways across
10 Oregon, honoring all who have served, those who are presently serving and those who will serve in
11 the nation's Armed Forces; and

12 Whereas Oregon does not yet have a dedicated border-to-border highway honoring its Gold Star
13 Families; and

14 Whereas U.S. Highway 30, at 3,073 miles in length, is the third longest highway in our nation,
15 crossing 11 states between the Pacific Ocean and the Atlantic Ocean; and

16 Whereas designating the border-to-border U.S. Highway 30 as the Oregon Gold Star Families
17 Memorial Highway would help to honor and provide closure to the 6,000 Gold Star Families of
18 Oregon's veterans who perished during wars since World War I; and

19 Whereas an Oregon Gold Star Families Memorial Highway on U.S. Highway 30, the longest
20 highway in Oregon, would intersect with other memorial highways, thus connecting Gold Star
21 Families of several generations and their loved ones; and

22 Whereas designating the portion of U.S. Highway 30 in Oregon as the Oregon Gold Star Families
23 Memorial Highway would set a precedent for creating a "Gold Star Families Memorial Highway
24 Across America" as Bend Heroes Foundation and its partners have accomplished with the Oregon
25 Medal of Honor Highway and Medal of Honor Highway Across America on U.S. Highway 20; and

26 Whereas Oregon's veterans and community members have offered to finance the creation, in-
27 stallation and maintenance of special highway markers for the Gold Star Families Memorial High-

NOTE: Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter *[italic and bracketed]* is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 way; now, therefore,

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

3 **SECTION 1.** ORS 366.924, as amended by section 1, chapter 21, Oregon Laws 2022, is amended
4 to read:

5 366.924. (1) The portion of U.S. Highway 395, crossing the State of Oregon, beginning at the
6 California state line and ending at the Washington state line, shall also be known as the World War
7 I Veterans Memorial Highway.

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

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

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

16 (5) The portion of U.S. Highway 26, beginning where the highway intersects with U.S. Highway
17 101 and ending at the Idaho state line, shall also be known as the POW/MIA Memorial Highway.

18 (6) The portion of Oregon Route 35, beginning where the highway intersects with U.S. Highway
19 26 and ending where the highway intersects with U.S. Highway 30, shall also be known as the
20 Oregon Nisei Veterans World War II Memorial Highway.

21 **(7) The portion of U.S. Highway 30, beginning where the highway intersects with U.S.**
22 **Highway 101 and ending at the Idaho state line, shall also be known as the Oregon Gold Star**
23 **Families Memorial Highway.**

24 [(7)] (8) The Department of Transportation shall place and maintain suitable markers along each
25 highway described in this section to indicate the designation of each highway.

26 [(8)(a)] (9)(a) The department may accept moneys from and may enter into agreements with
27 veterans groups to create, install and maintain the markers.

28 (b) The department may not use public funds for the installation and maintenance of the mark-
29 ers.

30 **SECTION 2. The amendments to ORS 366.924 by section 1 of this 2023 Act apply to new**
31 **highway markers erected on U.S. Highway 30 on or after the effective date of this 2023 Act.**

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