

HB 2344 -1, -2 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Emergency Management, General Government, and Veterans

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Meeting Dates: 4/1, 4/3

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure requires the Department of Veterans Affairs to keep the World War II Memorial on the Capital Mall up to date and develop and maintain an educational tool as part of the memorial. Lists necessary modifications including adding certain names to the memorial, lists criteria for adding names to the memorial, and defines killed in action and missing in action for purposes of the memorial.

Fiscal impact: TBD

Revenue impact: TBD

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Plans to upgrade the memorial, including structural updates, websites and educational tools
- Questions about names on the memorial and if there are any civilians listed
- Questions on if Wake Island civilians meet the criteria for inclusion on the memorial

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-1 Replaces measure.

- The measure requires the Department of Veterans Affairs to modify the World War II Memorial on the Capital Mall up to date.
- Requires the department develop and maintain an accessible educational tool on the war and the members that served, including civilians recognized by the Department of Defense for contributing to the defense of Wake Island in WWII.
- Lists necessary modifications including adding certain names to the memorial; lists criteria for adding names including Oregon residency and civilian status; defines killed in action and missing in action for purposes of the memorial.

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- Requires the department develop and maintain an accessible educational tool on the war and the members that served, including civilians recognized by the Department of Defense for contributing to the defense of Wake Island in WWII.

BACKGROUND:

House Bill 3416 (2011) established the World War II (WWII) Memorial Task Force to solicit private funding for the construction of the project and to arrange for the development, design, and construction of the memorial in the Capital Mall. The memorial was dedicated on June 6, 2014, and it features a 33-foot-tall monument and granite walls with the names of the roughly 3800 Oregonians who died in combat during WWII.