

HB 2344 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

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

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Meeting Dates: 4/29

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure directs the Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs (ODVA) to keep the World War II memorial at the Capitol Mall in Salem up to date with names of service members meeting specified criteria and improvements approved by the ODVA director. The ODVA is also directed to add and maintain an educational tool providing historical context on World War II and service members and civilians who served, including civilians recognized by the United States Department of Defense for contributing to the defense of Wake Island. It defines a service member as killed in action if their death was caused by enemy action, wounds sustained from enemy action, occurred while a prisoner of war, or if the service member became and remained missing in action during World War II combat operations against the enemy between May 27, 1941, and January 31, 1946.

Fiscal impact: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue impact: No revenue impact

HOUSE VOTE: Ayes, 56; Nays, 0

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

[House Bill 3416 \(2011\)](#) established the World War II (WWII) Memorial Task Force to solicit private funding for the development, design, and construction of a WWII memorial at the Capitol Mall to honor Oregon's WWII veterans. The memorial, located at the northwest corner of Wilson Park west of the Capitol, was dedicated on June 6, 2014. It features a 33-foot-tall monument, and walls with the names of the roughly 3,800 Oregonians who died in combat during WWII.

House Bill 2344 A directs the Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs to keep the WWII memorial up to date, add an educational tool with context about WWII, and include service members and civilians meeting specified criteria who served during WWII.