

**HB 3207 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**

**House Committee On Veterans and Emergency Preparedness**

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**Prepared By:** Bradley Volk, LPRO Analyst

**Meeting Dates:** 4/6

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

Names Interstate 5 between Albany and Salem, the Atomic Veterans Memorial Highway.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

**EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:**

No amendment.

**BACKGROUND:**

The United States government engaged in atmospheric and underwater nuclear weapons testing from July 16, 1945, to November 4, 1962, exposing an estimated 200,000 or more United States military service members to unsafe levels of radiation due to participation in nuclear weapons testing. These veterans became known as atomic veterans. These veterans were unable to discuss the nuclear weapons tests until the tests were declassified many years later. Many veterans died before they were able to seek benefits for their exposure to ionizing radiation. The United States Department of Veterans' Affairs has identified more than 20 cancers and diseases associated with such exposure. Many atomic veterans were exposed without their knowledge, their consent or any subsequent disclosure.

House Bill 3207 designates Interstate 5 between Albany and Salem, the Atomic Veterans Memorial Highway.