

# House Bill 3207

Sponsored by Representative SPRENGER, Senator GIROD; Representatives BARKER, CLEM, ESQUIVEL, MCLANE, OLSON, WILLIAMSON

## 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 **as introduced**.

Provides that portion of Interstate 5 shall be known as Atomic Veterans Memorial Highway.

## A BILL FOR AN ACT

1  
2 Relating to the Atomic Veterans Memorial Highway; amending ORS 366.924.

3 Whereas the United States government engaged in atmospheric and underwater nuclear weap-  
4 ons testing from July 16, 1945, to November 4, 1962, exposing an estimated 200,000 or more United  
5 States military service members to unsafe levels of radiation; and

6 Whereas service members exposed to ionizing radiation due to participation in nuclear weapons  
7 testing became known as atomic veterans; and

8 Whereas atomic veterans were unable to discuss the nuclear weapons tests until the tests were  
9 declassified many years later; and

10 Whereas many atomic veterans died before they were able to seek veterans' benefits for their  
11 exposure to ionizing radiation; and

12 Whereas the United States Department of Veterans Affairs has identified more than 20 cancers  
13 and diseases associated with radiation exposure experienced by atomic veterans; and

14 Whereas many atomic veterans were exposed without their knowledge, their consent or any  
15 subsequent disclosure; and

16 Whereas atomic veterans served their country honorably and with distinction, dedication and  
17 self-sacrifice for the freedom of others; now, therefore,

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

19 **SECTION 1.** ORS 366.924 is amended to read:

20 366.924. (1) The portion of U.S. Highway 395, crossing the State of Oregon, beginning at the  
21 California state line and ending at the Washington state line, shall also be known as the World War  
22 I Veterans Memorial Highway.

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

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

28 [(3)] (4) The portion of U.S. Highway 101, crossing the State of Oregon, beginning at the  
29 California state line and ending at the Washington state line, shall also be known as the Persian  
30 Gulf, Afghanistan and Iraq Veterans Memorial Highway.

31 [(4)] (5) The Department of Transportation shall place and maintain suitable markers along each

**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 highway described in this section to indicate the designation of each highway.

2 [(5)(a)] **(6)(a)** The department may accept moneys from and may enter into agreements with  
3 veterans groups to create, install and maintain the markers.

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

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