

SENATE BILL REPORT

SJM 8003

As of February 17, 2011

Brief Description: Requesting that Interstate 5 be named the "Purple Heart Trail."

Sponsors: Senators Prentice, Litzow, Swecker, Murray, Carrell, Kohl-Welles, Keiser, Conway and Honeyford.

Brief History:

Committee Activity: Transportation: 2/16/11.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

Staff: Hayley Gamble (786-7452)

Background: The Purple Heart Medal is awarded to members of the armed forces of the United States who are wounded or killed in military action. The Purple Heart Trail was established in 1992 by the Military Order of the Purple Heart and is intended to create a symbolic and honorary system of roads, highways, bridges, and other monuments that give tribute to those who have been awarded the Purple Heart Medal. The Purple Heart Trail originates at a monument in Mt. Vernon, Virginia, and various roads, bridges, and monuments are designated as part of the Purple Heart Trail in 45 states and Guam, including I-5 in California.

Current law authorizes the Washington Transportation Commission (Commission) to name or rename state transportation facilities, such as state highways, bridges, and ferry terminals.

The entity or person requesting the naming must provide evidence, as determined by the Commission, indicating community support and acceptance of the proposal. Historically, the Legislature passing a memorial in support of a naming proposal has been considered by the Commission as a measure of community support.

The Commission typically holds public hearings on naming proposals to collect additional input from residents, elected officials, and other groups who represent the area encompassing the transportation facility to be named.

Summary of Bill: The Legislature requests that the Washington Transportation Commission rename Interstate 5 from the Canadian border to the Oregon State Line the Purple Heart Trail.

This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not a part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Not requested.

Committee/Commission/Task Force Created: No.

Staff Summary of Public Testimony: PRO: The Purple Heart Trail is a concept that started about 12 years ago; it is an honorary title and there is no expense to the state involved.

Persons Testifying: PRO: Jim Sims, Military Order of the Purple Heart.