

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: No fiscal impact

Action:	Be Adopted
Vote:	7 - 0 - 1
Yeas:	Barnhart, Freeman, Garrett, Holvey, Wingard, Hunt, Olson
Nays:	-
Exc.:	Berger
Prepared By:	Jim Stenbridge, Administrator
Meeting Dates:	3/21

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Adopts the Code of the West as a model of conduct in the State of Oregon.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Leadership aspects of conduct codes and relevance of the Code of the West to the job of state legislator
- Loyalty equivalent of the seventh code principle, “ride for the brand”
- Costs and benefits of Legislative Assembly consideration of concurrent resolutions
- Relationship of “rugged individualism” to taking care of people who need special care

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

BACKGROUND: First chronicled by the famous western writer, Oregon’s own Zane Grey, in his 1934 novel *The Code of the West*, no written code ever actually existed. However, the hardy pioneers who lived in the west were bound by unwritten rules about hospitality, fair play, loyalty, and respect for the land.

James P. Owen, author of the *Cowboy Ethics* version of the Code of the West, founded the Center for Cowboy Ethics and Leadership in 2006 as a not-for-profit organization dedicated to the belief that everyone needs a code—a creed to live by. Inspired by the working cowboy's core principles of honesty, loyalty, and courage, the center aims to bring the simple, timeless values embodied in the Code of the West back to the fore of American life.

The Wyoming Legislature made Owen’s version of the Code of the West its official state code effective July 1, 2010.