

**A-Engrossed**  
**House Concurrent Resolution 23**

Ordered by the House April 25  
Including House Amendments dated April 25

Sponsored by Representative GELSER, Senators BATES, JOHNSON, TELFER; Representatives BAILEY, BARKER, BARNHART, BENTZ, BERGER, BEYER, BOONE, BREWER, BUCKLEY, CAMERON, CANNON, CLEM, CONGER, COWAN, DEMBROW, DOHERTY, ESQUIVEL, FREDERICK, FREEMAN, GARRARD, GARRETT, GILLIAM, GREENLICK, HANNA, HARKER, HICKS, HOLVEY, HOYLE, HUFFMAN, HUNT, JENSON, JOHNSON, KENNEMER, KOMP, KOTEK, KRIEGER, LINDSAY, MATTHEWS, MCLANE, NATHANSON, NOLAN, OLSON, PARRISH, READ, RICHARDSON, ROBLAN, SCHAUFLER, SHEEHAN, G SMITH, J SMITH, SPRENGER, THATCHER, THOMPSON, TOMEI, WAND, WEIDNER, WHISNANT, WINGARD, WITT, Senators ATKINSON, BEYER, BONAMICI, BOQUIST, BURDICK, COURTNEY, DEVLIN, DINGFELDER, EDWARDS, FERRIOLI, GEORGE, GIROD, HASS, KRUSE, MONNES ANDERSON, MONROE, MORSE, NELSON, OLSEN, PROZANSKI, ROSENBAUM, SHIELDS, STARR, THOMSEN, VERGER, WHITSETT, WINTERS

**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.

In memoriam: Ben Westlund, 1949-2010.

**CONCURRENT RESOLUTION**

1  
2       Whereas Ben Westlund was born on September 3, 1949, in Long Beach, California, and passed  
3 away on March 7, 2010, in Bend, Oregon; and

4       Whereas Ben Westlund moved to Oregon as a teen with his parents, Bernard "Bud" and Dorothy  
5 Westlund, and his two brothers, Richard and Morris; and

6       Whereas Ben Westlund graduated from Whitman College in 1972, where he earned degrees in  
7 education and history; and

8       Whereas Ben Westlund married his wife, Libby Bishop, a high school classmate, in 1987, and  
9 after selling their registered Hereford herd in 1990, they settled on the banks of the Deschutes River  
10 in Tumalo, where they had two children, BJ and Taylor; and

11       Whereas Ben Westlund had a number of successful private sector businesses before he entered  
12 public service, including a mining venture, marketing company, eastern Oregon cattle ranch and  
13 cattle genetics operations, where his best-known prize-winning Hereford bull was named Reggie; and

14       Whereas Ben Westlund was a lifetime fan of baseball and specifically of the Los Angeles  
15 Dodgers, and was also part-owner in the 1990s of a minor league baseball team called the Bend  
16 Bandits; and

17       Whereas Ben Westlund was convinced by his friend Lynn Lundquist to run for the Legislative  
18 Assembly and was elected to the Oregon House of Representatives in 1996; and

19       Whereas Ben Westlund was appointed to the Senate in 2003 and successfully won election to the  
20 seat in 2004 with the endorsement of both the Republican and Democratic Parties; and

21       Whereas Ben Westlund, in his 12 years in the Legislative Assembly, was a cochairperson of the  
22 Joint Committee on Ways and Means during this state's 2001 fiscal crisis and spearheaded legis-  
23 lation that created the Oregon Rainy Day Fund, the Public Safety Memorial Fund and the Oregon

**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 Cultural Trust; and

2 Whereas Ben Westlund advocated for access to higher education for central Oregon and was the  
3 chief legislative advocate for creating the Cascades Campus of Oregon State University; and

4 Whereas Ben Westlund valued good policy above politics and implored the Legislative Assembly  
5 in 2003 to “stop being politicians who think only of the next election, and start being statesmen who  
6 think only of the next generation”; and

7 Whereas Ben Westlund put people before politics and could not be defined by political party,  
8 and in his career was a Republican, an independent and a Democrat; and

9 Whereas Ben Westlund, as a moderate Republican in 2005, bucked partisan divides and  
10 cosponsored legislation to give marriage-like rights to same-sex couples; and

11 Whereas Ben Westlund and his friend Senator Alan Bates, D.O., were the chief legislative ad-  
12 vocates for health care reforms in 2007 that led to creation of the Oregon Health Authority; and

13 Whereas Ben Westlund cared deeply about Oregon and Oregonians, and championed legislation  
14 in 2007 to protect the Metolius River Basin, one of this state’s pristine natural areas; and

15 Whereas Ben Westlund authored consumer protection measures as the chairman of the Senate  
16 Committee on Commerce in 2008; and

17 Whereas Ben Westlund was outgoing, kind-hearted and an incorrigible practical joke player, and  
18 spared no friends or colleagues from his whimsy; and

19 Whereas Ben Westlund was elected in 2008 as Oregon’s 27th State Treasurer, becoming the only  
20 State Treasurer from east of the Cascades in recent memory; and

21 Whereas Ben Westlund, as State Treasurer, gained national attention for his efforts to expand  
22 investment transparency and to increase accountability in the Oregon 529 College Savings Program,  
23 and was instrumental in securing a \$20 million settlement in 2009 for families who were saving for  
24 their children’s futures; and

25 Whereas during Ben Westlund’s time in public service, he earned a reputation as a personable  
26 problem solver, a hands-on, collaborative and creative leader who sought always to bring out the  
27 best in his staff and those around him; and

28 Whereas Ben Westlund’s work on behalf of all Oregonians was quite outmatched by his devotion  
29 to his family, as during his years in the Capitol he called home every night at 8:00 p.m. to wish his  
30 children good night; and

31 Whereas Ben Westlund spent his life in public service focusing his efforts on making a better  
32 Oregon for his children and all of Oregon’s children; now, therefore,

33 **Be It Resolved by the Legislative Assembly of the State of Oregon:**

34 That we, the members of the Seventy-sixth Legislative Assembly, express our condolences to Ben  
35 Westlund’s wife and children, express the sense of loss the Legislative Assembly and the Capitol  
36 community feel in the absence of that brightly burning fire—a colleague and a friend who resides  
37 here no longer—and express our sincere gratitude to Ben Westlund and honor him for his years of  
38 service to the Legislative Assembly, to the State Treasury and to all the residents of Oregon.

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