

House Joint Resolution 22

Sponsored by Representative THATCHER (at the request of Erin Thurber)

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**.

Proposes amendment to Oregon Constitution to allow House of Representatives to impeach certain elected or appointed state officials. Specifies grounds for impeachment. Requires trial by Senate. Specifies effect of impeachment.

Refers proposed amendment to people for their approval or rejection at next regular general election.

JOINT RESOLUTION

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

PARAGRAPH 1. The Constitution of the State of Oregon is amended by repealing section 6, Article VII (Amended), and sections 19 and 20, Article VII (Original), by amending section 8, Article VII (Amended), and by creating a new section 5 to be added to and made a part of Article III, such sections to read:

SECTION 5. (1) The following officials may be impeached by a vote of at least 31 members of the House of Representatives:

(a) **The Governor.**

(b) **The Secretary of State.**

(c) **The State Treasurer.**

(d) **The Commissioner of the Bureau of Labor and Industries.**

(e) **The Attorney General.**

(f) **The director of each department of state government required by law to be appointed by the Governor and each full-time salaried head of a state agency required by law to be appointed by the Governor.**

(g) **A judge of the Supreme Court, the Court of Appeals, the Oregon Tax Court or any circuit court.**

(2) An official who is subject to this section may be impeached for malfeasance, crime, incapacity or negligence.

(3)(a) Any member of the House of Representatives who believes that an official listed in subsection (1) of this section has committed an act for which the official may be impeached may submit a complaint to the Speaker of the House of Representatives. A person who is a resident of this state and who believes that an official listed in subsection (1) of this section has committed an act for which the official may be impeached may submit a complaint to the Representative for the district in which the person resides. If the Representative believes that there is substantial evidence to support the complaint, the Representative shall deliver the complaint to the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

(b) Upon receiving a complaint under paragraph (a) of this subsection, the Speaker of the House of Representatives shall appoint a special prosecutor, and a committee of members

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 of the House of Representatives, to investigate the complaint. The committee shall consist
2 of three members from each of the two political parties with the greatest number of mem-
3 bers in the House of Representatives. If a majority of the members of the committee believes
4 that substantial evidence supports the complaint, and that the complaint alleges impeachable
5 conduct, the committee shall direct the special prosecutor to prepare articles of
6 impeachment and shall submit the articles to the House of Representatives.

7 (c) If the Legislative Assembly is in session when articles of impeachment are submitted
8 under this subsection, the House of Representatives shall vote on articles of impeachment
9 before adjourning sine die. If the Legislative Assembly is not in session when articles of
10 impeachment are submitted under this subsection, the House of Representatives must vote
11 on the articles before adjournment sine die of the next regular or special session of the
12 Legislative Assembly.

13 (4) Impeachment of an official subject to this section shall be tried by the Senate. When
14 the Senate is sitting as a court of impeachment, the Senators shall be on oath to impartially
15 try the party impeached, and an official may not be convicted without the concurrence of
16 two-thirds of the members of the Senate.

17 (5) Upon conviction in the Senate, an official subject to this section shall be removed
18 from office. In addition, the judgment of conviction may specify that the convicted official
19 be disqualified from holding any public office in this state.

20 (6) Any official impeached under this section shall be suspended from the exercise of of-
21 ficial duties during the pendency of the Senate proceedings. The suspension takes effect upon
22 the vote of impeachment by the House of Representatives and remains in effect until the
23 entry of a judgment of acquittal or conviction by the Senate.

24 (7) Nothing in this section prevents the indictment, trial and punishment of an official,
25 in the manner provided by law, for any offense committed by the official.

26 **Sec. 8.** (1) In the manner provided by law, and notwithstanding section 1 of this Article, a judge
27 of any court may be removed or suspended from [his] judicial office by the Supreme Court, or
28 censured by the Supreme Court, for:

29 (a) Conviction in a court of this or any other state, or of the United States, of a crime
30 punishable as a felony or a crime involving moral turpitude; or

31 (b) Wilful misconduct in a judicial office where such misconduct bears a demonstrable relation-
32 ship to the effective performance of judicial duties; or

33 (c) Wilful or persistent failure to perform judicial duties; or

34 (d) Generally incompetent performance of judicial duties; or

35 (e) Wilful violation of any rule of judicial conduct as shall be established by the Supreme Court;

36 or

37 (f) Habitual drunkenness or illegal use of narcotic or dangerous drugs.

38 (2) [Notwithstanding section 6 of this Article, the] **The** methods provided in this section, section
39 1a of this Article, and [in] section 18, Article II, **and section 5, Article III** of this Constitution, are
40 the exclusive methods of the removal, suspension, or censure of a judge.

41
42 **PARAGRAPH 2.** The amendment proposed by this resolution shall be submitted to the
43 people for their approval or rejection at the next regular general election held throughout
44 this state.