

REVENUE: No revenue impact
FISCAL: No fiscal impact
SUBSEQUENT REFERRAL TO:

Action:

Vote:

Yeas:

Nays:

Exc.:

Prepared By: Erin Seiler, Administrator

Meeting Dates: 2/12

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Designates February 14 of each year as Oregon Statehood Day.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:

BACKGROUND: Oregon became the 33rd state of the Union on February 14, 1859.

Though the abundant natural resources of this state have sustained its inhabitants for thousands of years, the 1805 arrival of the Lewis and Clark Expedition at the mouth of the Columbia River paved the way for American settlement of the region. In 1846, the United States and Great Britain signed the Oregon Treaty, which designated the 49th parallel as the international border, making it possible for the Congress of the United States to create Oregon Territory. In June 1857, nearly two years before receiving statehood, Oregonians voted to hold a constitutional convention, assembling in Salem to draft a governing document for this state in a desire to control their own government. It was not until February 12, 1859 that Congress passed the bill granting statehood to Oregon. Two days later President James Buchanan signed the bill. The news that Oregon had been granted statehood did not reach Governor Joseph Lane until nearly month later, after it was relayed by telegraph to St. Louis, by stagecoach to San Francisco, by steamer to Portland and by messenger on horseback to Salem.

Senate Bill 458 designates February 14 of each year as a day to commemorate that event.