

Seventy-Eighth Oregon Legislative Assembly - 2015 Regular Session
STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY
House Committee On Rules

MEASURE: HCR 7
CARRIER: Rep. Whitsett

Fiscal: No Fiscal Impact
Revenue: No Revenue Impact

Action Date: 02/11/15
Action: Be Adopted.
Meeting Dates: 02/11

House
Yeas: 9 - Barnhart, Gilliam, Hoyle, Kennemer, Wilson, Nosse, Rayfield, Smith Warner, McLane

Prepared By: Erin Seiler, Committee Administrator

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Honors Oregon pioneer, author, and activist, Abigail Scott Duniway.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Life of Abigail Scott Duniway
- Efforts in women's suffrage movement
- Disagreement between Duniway and her brother, then-editor of *The Oregonian* about women's suffrage
- Various ways Duniway is honored throughout Oregon

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Known as the "Mother of Equal Suffrage," Abigail Scott Duniway was the embodiment of a true pioneer. She traveled the Oregon Trail and eventually became one of the leading voices in the nationwide struggle for women's suffrage.

She was born to Abigail Jane Scott in 1834, and travelled with her family on the Oregon Trail to Lafayette in 1852. There she married Benjamin Duniway and had six children. After her husband was injured in an accident, she became the primary breadwinner for the family, opening a millinery shop, running a school and taking in boarders. The Duniway family moved to Portland in 1871, where Abigail Scott Duniway founded a newspaper, *The New Northwest*, in 1871, and served as editor and writer for the newspaper until it closed in 1887. She worked for women's rights as a lecturer, organizer, writer and editor and founded Oregon State Woman Suffrage Association and the Oregon State Equal Suffrage Association. She advocated the use of persuasive words and non-confrontational tactics to further the causes she espoused. Abigail Scott Duniway died on October 11, 1915, after seeing women granted the vote in Oregon but before the Nineteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution was ratified, guaranteeing the right to vote for all women in the United States.

House Concurrent Resolution 7 honors Abigail Scott Duniway for her pioneering work for woman suffrage and for her place in Oregon's history as one of its earliest and most influential leaders.