

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

MEASURE: SB 458
CARRIER: Sen. Prozanski

Fiscal: No Fiscal Impact
Revenue: No Revenue Impact

Action Date: 02/12/15

Action: Do Pass.

Meeting Dates: 02/12

Senate

Yeas: 4 - Beyer, Boquist, Ferrioli, Burdick

Exc: 1 - Rosenbaum

Prepared By: Erin Seiler, Committee Administrator

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Designates February 14 of each year as Oregon Statehood Day.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Significance of February 14
- Importance of teaching students about Oregon history
- Lane County students' development of and support for idea

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:

No 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 United States Congress to create the 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 the state. 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 a 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.