

A-Engrossed House Concurrent Resolution 8

Ordered by the House April 7
Including House Amendments dated April 7

Sponsored by Representative SMITH WARNER, Senator DEMBROW; Representative NOSSE (Pre-session filed.)

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.

Honors musical legacy of James Gilbert "Jim" Pepper.

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1
2 Whereas James Gilbert "Jim" Pepper, the great Native American musician, was born in Salem,
3 Oregon, in 1941, grew up in the Parkrose neighborhood of Portland, and took his music to New York
4 City, throughout Indian country and to Europe and Africa, bridging cultures and continents during
5 his lifetime; and

6 Whereas Jim Pepper was of Kaw ancestry through his father, Gilbert Pepper, and of Muscogee
7 (Creek) ancestry through his mother, Floy Pepper; and

8 Whereas Jim Pepper's Kaw name, Hunga-che-ada, translates to Flying Eagle; and

9 Whereas Jim Pepper passed from this life in his Parkrose home in 1992 after succumbing to
10 lymphoma at the age of 50; and

11 Whereas the Seventy-third Legislative Assembly of the State of Oregon honored Jim Pepper in
12 Senate Joint Resolution 31 (2005), sponsored by Senator Avel Gordly, which described what was
13 known about Jim Pepper at the time the resolution was drafted; and

14 Whereas additional information about Jim Pepper's life and achievements have since become
15 known; and

16 Whereas Jim Pepper received awards and recognition during his lifetime and posthumously, in-
17 cluding the First Americans in the Arts Lifetime Musical Achievement Award in 1999 and induction
18 into the Native American Music Awards Hall of Fame in 2000 and the Oklahoma Jazz Hall of Fame
19 in 2007; and

20 Whereas the Oregon Music Hall of Fame honors Oregonians who have made outstanding con-
21 tributions to, or who have had a significant impact on, the evolution, development and perpetuation
22 of the music industry throughout this state; and

23 Whereas the Oregon Music Hall of Fame celebrated the induction of Jim Pepper among its
24 inaugural cohort in 2007; and

25 Whereas Jim Pepper continues to receive posthumous recognition in the United States and in
26 Europe; and

27 Whereas Jim Pepper was a founding member, along with Larry Coryell, Ra-Kalam Bob Moses,
28 Chris Hills and Columbus "Chip" Baker, of The Free Spirits, which is recognized worldwide as the
29 first jazz-rock fusion band in music history; and

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 Whereas the family of Jim Pepper gifted his tenor saxophone, turtle shell rattle, cap with eagle
2 feather worn in concert, recordings and original sheet music to the National Museum of the Amer-
3 ican Indian, Smithsonian Institution, in 2007, and some of this memorabilia has since been exhibited
4 in both Washington, D.C., and New York City; and

5 Whereas musicians around the world continue to record their versions of Jim Pepper’s compos-
6 itions, and he continues to influence Native American and non-Native American musicians working
7 in many different genres; and

8 Whereas the annual Jim Pepper Native Arts Festival is now established in Jim Pepper’s home
9 neighborhood, Parkrose, in partnership with the Parkrose School District, celebrating the music and
10 legacy of Jim Pepper; and

11 Whereas the Jim Pepper Remembrance Scholarship Fund has been established to benefit both
12 Parkrose music and dance students and Native American music and dance students living on or off
13 reservations anywhere in the United States; and

14 Whereas Travel Portland has now dedicated an entire page on its website to Jim Pepper and the
15 Jim Pepper Native Arts Festival in recognition that the acclaimed saxophonist, band leader and
16 composer’s legacy will grow over time as his accomplishments become better known; and

17 Whereas the Oregon Historical Society, the Portland Art Museum, the Multnomah County Li-
18 brary, KBOO 90.7 FM community radio, Portland Community Media (PCMTV), Metro East Media
19 and the Parkrose School District are planning events in 2015 to remember and celebrate Jim Pepper
20 or have already published or broadcast his music and information about his legacy and influence;
21 and

22 Whereas the noted composer, conductor and author David Amram said of Jim Pepper, “Jim
23 opened up a lot of doors to take people to places that they had never been before, and we all have
24 to work to keep his legacy alive and open more doors for young people to inspire them to live their
25 lives creatively and make a contribution to the world . . . the way Jim did”; and

26 Whereas in 2000, the composer and conductor Gunther Schuller, winner of the Pulitzer Prize for
27 Music in 1994, arranged, conducted and recorded Jim Pepper’s music in Cologne, Germany, in an
28 album titled, “Gunther Schuller’s Witchi Tai To: The Music of Jim Pepper,” and plans are underway
29 to produce the American premiere performance of Gunther Schuller’s arrangements in Portland,
30 Oregon; now, therefore,

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

32 That we, the members of the Seventy-eighth Legislative Assembly, honor the extraordinary ac-
33 complishments and musical legacy of Oregon native son Jim Pepper; and be it further

34 Resolved, That a copy of this resolution be sent to the Oregon Historical Society and to the
35 National Museum of the American Indian, Smithsonian Institution, in Washington, D.C., for inclusion
36 in their permanent collections of Jim Pepper memorabilia; and be it further

37 Resolved, That a copy of this resolution be sent to the Portland Art Museum, the Native
38 American Music Awards, the Oregon Music Hall of Fame, the Commission on Indian Services, the
39 Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde, Portland State University, the Oklahoma Jazz Hall of
40 Fame, the Kaw Nation of Oklahoma, the Muscogee (Creek) Nation of Oklahoma, the Parkrose School
41 District, the Jim Pepper Native Arts Festival board of directors and the family of Jim Pepper.

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