

Enrolled
Senate Bill 458

Sponsored by Senator PROZANSKI (at the request of Jyoti Barnhart, Siri Garrett, Zoe Littlebury, Dawn Turpin and Elizabeth Wyley) (Presession filed.)

CHAPTER

AN ACT

Relating to a day to commemorate Oregon statehood.

Whereas from the temperate, forested northwest coast to the harsh landscape of the high desert, the abundant natural resources of this state have sustained its inhabitants for thousands of years; and

Whereas the arrival in November 1805 of the Lewis and Clark Expedition at the mouth of the Columbia River paved the way for American settlement of the region; and

Whereas by 1811 John Jacob Astor's Pacific Fur Trade Company had established Fort Astoria, the first permanent American settlement in the area that came to be known as Oregon Territory; and

Whereas the first white settlers in the region faced extreme hardships and even death in making the journey on the Oregon Trail, the survivors overcoming unforgiving terrain and rampant sickness and disease, the latter of which forever changed the population of the native peoples; and

Whereas even amidst the hardships, early settlers banded together to cultivate the fertile farmland of this state, build missions and harvest the abundant and valuable natural resources; and

Whereas by the middle part of the 19th century, the population of United States citizens who had settled in Oregon was growing quickly; and

Whereas 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; and

Whereas growing industries in other parts of the United States created demand for Oregon agriculture and timber products; and

Whereas the Oregon Provisional Government was established in 1843, followed shortly by the arrival of the United States Army in Oregon Territory in 1849; and

Whereas without enabling legislation from Congress and in a desire to control their own government, Oregonians voted in June 1857 to hold a constitutional convention, assembling in Salem to draft a governing document for this state; and

Whereas in June 1858 residents of Oregon Territory elected officials as provided in their new Constitution; and

Whereas granting Oregon statehood was a complex question in Congress due to the fragile balance of power in the buildup to the Civil War; and

Whereas in 1857 Oregonians voted to disallow slavery in Oregon Territory even as they voted against permitting residency of freed African Americans; and

Whereas on February 12, 1859, Congress passed the bill granting statehood to Oregon; and

Whereas on February 14, 1859, the bill was signed by President James Buchanan; and

Whereas the news that Oregon had been granted statehood was relayed by telegraph to St. Louis, by stagecoach to San Francisco, by steamer to Portland and by messenger on horseback to Salem, where it reached Governor Joseph Lane nearly a month later; now, therefore,

Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:

SECTION 1. February 14 of each year is designated as Oregon Statehood Day to commemorate the date on which Oregon became the 33rd state in the United States of America.

Passed by Senate February 26, 2015

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Lori L. Brocker, Secretary of Senate

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Peter Courtney, President of Senate

Passed by House June 16, 2015

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Tina Kotek, Speaker of House

Received by Governor:

.....M.,....., 2015

Approved:

.....M.,....., 2015

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Kate Brown, Governor

Filed in Office of Secretary of State:

.....M.,....., 2015

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Jeanne P. Atkins, Secretary of State