

HCR 13 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Rules

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Meeting Dates: 5/3

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Recognizes and designates official tartan of State of Oregon.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

BACKGROUND:

In March 1998, the United States Senate passed Senate Resolution 155, designating April 6 of every year as National Tartan Day to celebrate Scottish culture and heritage and to recognize the role of Scottish Americans in the development of the United States. The particular date was selected because it was the anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Arbroath on April 6, 1320; which was, in effect, Scotland's declaration of independence.

The recognition of National Tartan Day provides an opportunity to acknowledge the accomplishments of people of Scottish descent on all aspects of life in our nation, notably in commerce, medicine, science, the arts, technology, law, literature and exploration. The symbol of Scottish identity is the tartan, particularly when worn in the form of a kilt, as it is directly identified with certain clans or districts, signifying clan or district allegiance and identification. A tartan pattern is subject to the approval of the clan chief and official district or state tartans are subject to legislative authority, the Scottish Tartans Authority in Scotland. The establishment of a state tartan would symbolize recognition of the contribution Scots and Americans of Scottish descent have made to Oregon.

House Concurrent Resolution 13 creates a tartan for the State of Oregon whose colors symbolize the distinctive features of our state: blue representing the blue of the flag of Oregon, the deep blue waters of the ocean, the fishing industry, the deep blue lakes and the major inland rivers; gold representing the center color of the flag of Oregon and the many and varied agricultural regions of the state; green representing the many and varied forests; white representing the beautiful snowcapped mountains; taupe representing the high desert and grasslands; crimson representing the fiery volcanic past and the cinder buttes; azure representing the streams and creeks, the wetland marshes, the shallow lakes and the wide sweep of the Oregon skies and black representing the obsidian buttes.