

HCR 8 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Environment and Natural Resources

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Meeting Dates: 5/3, 5/8

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Celebrates the 50th anniversary of Oregon's Beach Bill and encourages Oregonians to visit and enjoy the state's beaches in the summer of 2017.

No fiscal impact, no revenue impact

House Vote: Adopted. Ayes, 58; Excused, 2--Boone, Piluso

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- History of Beach Bill
- Importance of beach access
- Influence of Beach Bill on other efforts

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

The Oregon Beach Bill was a landmark piece of legislation passed with bipartisan support in 1967. The Beach Bill declared that all wet sand within 16 vertical feet of the low tide line belongs to the citizens of Oregon. The measure also recognized public easements of all beach areas up to the line of vegetation, regardless of underlying property rights. The public has "free and uninterrupted use of the beaches," and property owners are required to seek state permits for building and other uses of the shore. Governor Tom McCall signed the measure into law on July 6, 1967. While some parts of Oregon beaches remain privately owned, state and federal courts have upheld Oregon's right to regulate development of those lands and preserve public access. The State Parks and Recreation Department reported over 23.9 million visitors at Oregon's beaches from January to September 2016. July 6, 2017 is the 50th anniversary of the Oregon Beach Bill.

House Concurrent Resolution 8 would celebrate the 50th anniversary of Oregon's Beach Bill.