

**SB 146 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**

**Senate Committee On Rules**

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**Prepared By:** Cherie Stone, LPRO Analyst

**Meeting Dates:** 2/8

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

Designates the third Saturday in March of each year as Cherry Blossom Day in Salem and encourages residents and visitors to join in observance. Declares an emergency, effective upon passage.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

**EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:**

**BACKGROUND:**

In 1903, Salem held its inaugural Cherry Festival, a three-day celebration that included the coronation of a Cherry King and Queen, hosted activities, industrial displays, and cherry related exhibits along Court Street. In 1907, the Pacific Coast Association of Nurserymen gave Salem the title "Cherry City", and in 1913 the Cherrians organized for the purposes of hosting an annual Blossom Day.

The cherry blossom has historically served as a symbol of Japanese culture, and the cherry tree is similarly symbolic of Salem, due to its significant role in the city's history, culture and economy. Currently, there are more than 150 Akebono flowering cherry trees on the Capitol Mall. The Oregon State Capitol hosted Cherry Blossom day in 2015 and 2016 to celebrate and highlight the historical significance of the cherry tree in Salem.

Senate Bill 146 establishes the third Saturday in March of each year as Cherry Blossom Day in Salem.