

SCR 3 -1 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Rules

Prepared By: Cherie Stone, LPRO Analyst

Meeting Dates: 2/15

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Remembers and honors victims of Ukrainian famine of 1932–1933, known as Holodomor. Designates November 25, 2017, as Holodomor Remembrance Day. Encourages individuals, educators, businesses, groups, organizations and public institutions to join in observance with educational activities designed to honor victims.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-1 Corrects information regarding the number of deaths attributed to Holodomor.

BACKGROUND:

The Ukrainian famine of 1932–1933, known as Holodomor, caused the deaths of approximately five million innocent men, women and children in Ukraine, and resulting in the elimination of an estimated 25 percent of the rural population of Ukraine. Additionally, the famine resulted in the deaths of between one and two million people in regions outside Ukraine, including the Ukrainian North Caucasus territory. During the artificial famine ordered by Joseph Stalin, leader of the Soviet Union, millions of people were starved to death by forced agricultural collectivization and grain seizure by the Soviet government.

The Soviet Union and Western scholars largely did not confirm the occurrence of Holodomor until the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991, when archival documentation of the famine and its enforcement became available. Established in 1985, the US Commission on the Ukraine Famine (Commission) was tasked with studying the famine in order to gain greater knowledge and understanding of the famine and the Soviet Union's role. On April 22, 1988, the Commission delivered the study's findings to Congress, including the statement that the victims "starved to death in a man-made famine." While the Ukraine Famine resulted in one of the largest losses of human life in the 20th century, awareness and education about the occurrence is not widespread.

Senate Concurrent Resolution 3 remembers and honors the victims of the Ukraine famine of 1932-1933, known as Holodomor, and designates November 25, 2017 as Holodomor Remembrance Day. Further, SCR3 encourages individuals, educators, businesses, groups, organizations and public institutions to observe Holodomor Remembrance Day with educational activities.