

SB 146 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Carrier: Sen. Winters, Sen. Courtney

Senate Committee On Rules

Action Date: 02/08/17
Action: Do pass.
Vote: 5-0-0-0
Yeas: 5 - Beyer, Boquist, Burdick, Ferrioli, Roblan
Fiscal: No fiscal impact
Revenue: No revenue impact
Prepared By: Cherie Stone, LPRO Analyst

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Designates third Saturday in March of each year as Cherry Blossom Day in Salem. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- History of cherry blossom tree in Oregon
- Cultural and economic contributions of cherry blossom tree to Oregon
- Historical cherry blossom festivities
- Future plans for Cherry Blossom Day

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No 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 a group called the Cherrians organized for the purposes of hosting an annual Blossom Day. The tradition was revived when the Oregon State Capitol hosted Cherry Blossom day in 2015 and 2016 to celebrate Salem's beloved trees, Japanese culture and Oregon's cherry industry. In 1986, the City of Salem and Kawagoe City, Japan, entered into a sister city relationship to strengthen the bonds between them. The cherry blossom has become a symbol of this bond, as it is historically and culturally significant in both the Japanese culture and in Salem. Currently, there are more than 150 Akebono flowering cherry trees on the Capitol Mall.

Senate Bill 146 establishes the third Saturday in March of each year as Cherry Blossom Day in Salem, and encourages all residents and visitors to join in this observance.