

SCR 14 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Carrier: Sen. Ferrioli

Senate Committee On Rules

Action Date: 02/13/17
Action: Be adopted.
Vote: 4-0-1-0
Yeas: 4 - Beyer, Burdick, Ferrioli, Roblan
Exc: 1 - Boquist
Fiscal: No fiscal impact
Revenue: No revenue impact
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WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Acknowledges 75th anniversary of Japanese American internment during World War II and recognizes national Day of Remembrance.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Historical significance of February 19th
- Personal family histories
- Effect of Executive Order 9066 on generations of Japanese Americans
- Historical contributions of Japanese Americans to Oregon and United States

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

On February 19, 1942, President Franklin D. Roosevelt issued Executive Order 9066 authorizing the United States military to designate specified “military areas” and exclude certain individuals from those areas. Similarly, on March 18, 1942, President Roosevelt issued Executive Order 9102 establishing the War Relocation Authority and authorizing the Director to “formulate and effectuate a program for the removal, from the areas designated from time to time by the Secretary of War or appropriate military commander under the authority of Executive Order No. 9066 of February 19, 1942, of the persons or classes of persons designated under such Executive Order, and for their relocation, maintenance, and supervision” (*Executive Order 9102 Establishing the War Relocation Authority*, President Franklin D. Roosevelt, 1942). Subsequently, from May 1942 to January 1945, approximately 120,000 Japanese Americans and legal resident aliens residing on the Pacific coast of the United States were relocated and placed into internment camps, including more than 4,000 Oregonians of Japanese ancestry.

Executive Order 9066 was suspended by President Roosevelt in 1944, and World War II concluded in 1945. However, the last internment camp, Tule Lake, remained open until March 20, 1946, and Executive Order 9742, signed by President Harry S. Truman on June 26, 1946, officially terminated the War Relocation Authority’s mission as stated in Executive Order 9102. Executive Order 9066 was finally formally rescinded by President Gerald Ford in 1976, exactly 30 years after it was originally issued. President Ford called upon American citizens to “resolve that this kind of action shall never again be repeated” (*An American Promise*, President Gerald Ford, 1976). In 1980, President Jimmy Carter signed legislation to establish the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians (Commission) and

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require that the Commission conduct an official study of Executive Order 9066 and its impact on Japanese Americans and Alaska Natives. The conclusion of the Commission's study, issued in 1982, determined that the relocation and internment of Japanese Americans had not been justified by military necessity.

Japanese Americans across the country annually observe February 19th, the anniversary of the signing of Executive Order 9066, as a Day of Remembrance of the internment endured by Japanese Americans during World War II, and to educate the public about the incarceration to ensure it does not occur again in the future. SCR14 recognizes the historical significance of February 19, 1942, supports the goals of the Japanese American community in commemorating the national Day of Remembrance, and honors Japanese American World War II veterans and internees.