

HCR 8 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Carrier: Rep. Gomberg, Rep. Smith DB

House Committee On Veterans and Emergency Preparedness

Action Date: 04/04/17
Action: Be Adopted.
Vote: 7-0-1-0
Yeas: 7 - Esquivel, Evans, Lewis, Lively, Meek, Parrish, Post
Exc: 1 - Boone
Fiscal: No fiscal impact
Revenue: No revenue impact
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WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Celebrates the 50th anniversary of Oregon's Beach Bill.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- History of legislation protecting public access to Oregon beaches
- Other legislation inspired by the Beach Bill, such as Oregon's Bottle Bill
- Uniqueness of the Oregon Beach Bill

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

The Oregon Beach Bill (House Bill 1601) was a landmark piece of legislation passed with bipartisan support in 1967. The Beach Bill declared that all wet sand within sixteen 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. It coincides with a total solar eclipse on August 21, 2017, that will be the first seen in North America from Oregon's beaches.

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