

HCR 31 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Carrier: Rep. Boone

House Committee On Rules

Action Date: 04/27/17

Action: Be Adopted.

Vote: 8-0-1-0

Yeas: 8 - Barreto, Hack, Holvey, McLane, Nosse, Rayfield, Smith Warner, Williamson

Exc: 1 - Kennemer

Fiscal: No fiscal impact

Revenue: No revenue impact

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WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Commemorates the centennial of Finnish independence on December 6, 2017.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Finland's centennial celebration
- Prevalence of Finnish people in Oregon

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

100 years ago Finland established their independence and has since been repeatedly ranked among the best places to live on earth.

December 6, 1917 marked the day that Finland declared their independence after centuries of foreign control. For 600 years, Finland had been a part of Sweden and, in 1809, they fell under Russian rule where their major decisions had been subject to the approval of the tsar. Despite foreign influence, Finland managed to develop and retain their own identity, language, culture and economy. Finland's independence did not come easily or without cost. The struggle over whether the new country would become a monarchy or republic led to a civil war in 1918 where over 37,000 Finns lost their lives.

In honor of the centennial, the Nordic country has organized Finland 100, a year of celebration to both remember and look forward. Finland's emphasis on national reconciliation, following the civil war, helped strengthen the new republic and embodies the theme of "Together" for the Finland 100 centennial celebration. In its 100 years of independence, Finland has transformed itself from an impoverished, agrarian society into a technologically advanced nation, well-known for its equality, outstanding education system, high standard of living and sophisticated economy.

House Concurrent Resolution 31 commemorates the centennial of Finnish independence.