

HCR 19 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Carrier: Rep. Malstrom

House Committee On Rules

Action Date: 04/27/17

Action: Be adopted with amendments. (Printed A-Eng.)

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:

Designates Marionberry pie as official pie of Oregon.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Agricultural production history of Marion blackberry in Oregon
- Oregon Marion blackberries are both a popular agricultural commodity and a locally grown ingredient for restaurants
- Popularity of Marionberry pie
- Economic impact of Marion blackberries in Oregon

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

Changes reference to "Marionberry" to "Marion blackberry." Clarifies scope of collaboration between United States Department of Agriculture and Oregon State University regarding introduction of Marion blackberry. Identifies large percentage of Marion blackberries grown in Oregon.

BACKGROUND:

Marion blackberry is a hybrid blackberry that is a cross between the Chehalem and Olallieberry. As a blackberry hybrid, the Marion blackberry is a vigorous grower that produces up to six tons of berries per acre.

Oregon has been home to the Marion blackberry since 1956 when George F. Waldo introduced it as a product of Oregon State University's blackberry breeding program in cooperation with the United States Department of Agriculture. Oregon is not only the birthplace of Marion blackberries, but also the inspiration for the berry's name, with Marion County being the location of the berries extensive tests.

With 300 growers and 20 packers, Oregon continues to be the primary grower of Marion blackberries globally by producing 21 million pounds annually. Marion blackberries are ideally suited to grow in the Willamette Valley's climate of moist spring rains and summers that are warm during the day and cool at night. Salem in particular grows 90 percent of the world's Marion blackberries.

Five state legislatures have previously adopted a state pie: Florida lawmakers adopted Key lime pie, Illinois lawmakers chose Pumpkin pie, Texas designated Pecan pie, Indiana adopted the Sugar Cream pie, and in 1999, Vermont designated Apple pie as their state pie.

House Concurrent Resolution 19-A designates Marionberry pie the official pie of Oregon.