

House Concurrent Resolution 31

Sponsored by Representatives BOONE, JOHNSON

SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced**.

Recognizes December 6, 2017, as centennial of Finnish independence.

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Whereas 2017 marks Finland's 100th year of independence and, in honor of the centennial, the Nordic country of 5.5 million people has organized Finland 100, a year of celebration in which to both remember and look forward; and

Whereas Finland's struggle to become independent and maintain that independence is worthy of remembrance and recognition; and

Whereas Finland declared itself an independent republic on December 6, 1917, repudiating its status as a semiautonomous grand duchy of Russia whose major decisions had been subject to the approval of the tsar; and

Whereas before coming under Russian rule in 1809, Finland had been a part of Sweden for over 600 years, yet despite centuries of foreign control, Finland had developed and retained its own identity, language, culture and economy; and

Whereas the Finnish people's desire to be free from an outside empire's authority and to exercise self-determination may be expressed by the phrase, famous throughout Finland, "Swedes we are not, Russians we will not be, so let us be Finns"; and

Whereas Finland's independence did not come easily or without cost, as the struggle over the governmental form the new country would take — monarchy or republic — led to a civil war in 1918 in which more than 37,000 Finns died; and

Whereas following the civil war, Finland's emphasis on national reconciliation helped strengthen the young republic, and the country experienced rapid social and economic progress; and

Whereas Finland, again forced to fight for its freedom, twice defended itself against the Soviet Union during World War II and, though ceding some lands in a peace settlement, was able to maintain its independence; and

Whereas 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, that has been repeatedly ranked among the best places to live on earth; now, therefore,

Be It Resolved by the Legislative Assembly of the State of Oregon:

That we, the members of the Seventy-ninth Legislative Assembly, recognize December 6, 2017, as the centennial of Finnish independence and encourage all Oregonians to join in celebrating Finland 100.

NOTE: Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter [*italic and bracketed*] is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.