

HB 2081 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY
House Committee On Agriculture and Land Use

Carrier: Rep. Williams

Action Date: 02/05/19
Action: Do Pass.
Vote: 7-0-0-0
Yeas: 7 - Boshart Davis, Clem, Helm, McLain, Post, Smith DB, Williams
Fiscal: No fiscal impact
Revenue: No revenue impact
Prepared By: Laura Kentnesse, LPRO Analyst
Meeting Dates: 1/24, 2/5

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Modifies the nomenclature of Oregon Heritage Commission responsibilities from the coordination of statewide anniversary celebrations to the coordination of statewide anniversary commemorations.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- The role of the Oregon Heritage Commission in tone-setting significant historical events
- The inclusiveness of the term 'commemorate'
- Example events where 'celebration' may not be perceived as appropriate by all Oregonians
- The right of the applicant to choose how they describe their event

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

The Oregon Heritage Commission (Commission) was established in 1995 to coordinate state heritage activities. The Commission creates and implements the Oregon Heritage Plan, coordinates with public and private organizations to preserve Oregon historical records, coordinates a comprehensive inventory of state-owned cultural properties, and partners with the Oregon Business Development Department to encourage tourism activities relating to heritage resources. The Commission also coordinates statewide anniversary celebrations, which signify official state recognition of events of historical significance, and serve to educate the public about these events and the value of heritage.

Examples of Commission-declared celebrations have included: Historic Columbia River Highway Centennial, Centennial of birth of William Stafford, Centennial of Women's Suffrage in Oregon, Pendleton Round-Up Centennial, Oregon Statehood Sesquicentennial, Treaty With Tribes of Middle Oregon Sesquicentennial, Walla Walla Treaty Council of 1855, and the Lewis and Clark Expedition Bicentennial.

House Bill 2081 would modify the nomenclature of Oregon Heritage Commission responsibilities from the coordination of statewide anniversary celebrations to statewide anniversary commemorations.