

SJM 6 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Carrier: Sen. Thatcher

Senate Committee On Business and General Government

Action Date: 03/26/19

Action: Be adopted.

Vote: 5-0-0-0

Yeas: 5 - Dembrow, Girod, Hass, Olsen, Riley

Fiscal: No fiscal impact

Revenue: No revenue impact

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Meeting Dates: 3/12, 3/26

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Urges Congress to allow states to remain on daylight saving time the entire year.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Benefits of removing twice-annual time change
- Relative benefits and risks of standard versus daylight saving time
- Status of measures in the California and Washington legislatures to maintain those states on permanent daylight saving time
- Benefits of keeping Oregon time aligned with neighboring west-coast states
- Need for Congressional approval of proposed time change
- Challenges of programming software to account for time change

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Daylight saving time is the practice of setting the clock one hour forward for 34 weeks of the year, allowing for more daylight in the evening hours. The United States used daylight saving time at times during World War I and II, with some state and local governments persisting in the practice. The Uniform Time Act of 1966 standardized the practice nationwide, and allowed states to exempt themselves. Hawaii and Arizona, with the exception of the Navajo Nation, do not observe daylight saving time. Measures introduced in Congress, California, and Washington would end the twice-yearly time change and permanently maintain daylight saving time. According to the National Conference of State Legislatures, 26 states have introduced measures ending the practice of twice-yearly time changes.

A 2008 study concluded that the time spent changing clocks represented a \$1.7 billion opportunity cost to the U.S. population. Another study found that daylight saving time costs the U.S. economy more than \$433 million each year in the form of cardiac incidents, workplace injuries in the mining and construction sectors, and "cyberloafing" in office settings. A 2014 study found a 6.3 percent increase in fatal automobile accidents over the six days following the time change.

Senate Bill 320-A ceases the one-hour time change and places Oregon permanently on daylight saving time. The measure exempts the portion of the state in the Mountain Time Zone, and becomes operative after California and Washington also adopt permanent daylight saving time. Senate Joint Memorial 6 urges Congress to allow states to permanently maintain themselves on daylight saving time.