

# Senate Joint Resolution 24

Sponsored by Senators WINTERS, MANNING JR, FREDERICK, Representative BYNUM

## 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**.

Proposes amendment to Oregon Constitution to prohibit slavery and involuntary servitude in all circumstances.

Refers proposed amendment to people for their approval or rejection at next regular general election.

## JOINT RESOLUTION

Whereas the Oregon Constitution has prohibited slavery and involuntary servitude, which is the coerced service of one individual for the benefit of another, since 1857; and

Whereas the prohibition on slavery and involuntary servitude, by its express terms, does not apply to individuals when imposed as punishment for a crime for which the individual has been duly convicted; and

Whereas the state should not have the power to compel individuals to labor against their will; and

Whereas the state recognizes that allowing individuals convicted of a crime to perform work incident to such convictions, including labor at penal institutions or pursuant to work release programs, assists in the individuals' rehabilitation, teaches practical and interpersonal skills that may be useful upon reintegration into society and contributes to healthier and safer penal environments; and

Whereas because work provides myriad individual and collective benefits, the purpose of this proposed constitutional amendment is not to withdraw legitimate opportunities to work from individuals who have been convicted of a crime, but instead to merely prohibit compulsory labor from such individuals; now, therefore,

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

**PARAGRAPH 1.** Section 34, Article I of the Constitution of the State of Oregon, is amended to read:

**Sec. 34.** There shall be neither slavery[, ] nor involuntary servitude in **this state** [*the State, otherwise than as a punishment for crime, whereof the party shall have been duly convicted*]. [-]

**PARAGRAPH 2.** The amendment proposed by this resolution shall be submitted to the people for their approval or rejection at the next regular general election held throughout this state.

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**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.