

## HCR 13 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

### House Committee On Rules

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**Prepared By:** Melissa Leoni, LPRO Analyst

**Meeting Dates:** 2/4

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#### **WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

In memoriam: George Ira Fenton Jr. (1931-2019).

#### **ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

#### **EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:**

No amendment.

#### **BACKGROUND:**

George Ira Fenton Jr. was born on February 25, 1931, near Harper, Oregon, to Hazel Star Northrup Fenton and George I. Fenton. Fenton Jr. was the youngest of six children who grew up on a working ranch before the family moved to Ontario, Oregon, during the Great Depression. He graduated from Ontario High School, where he played football and baseball and worked at a motel and movie theater.

Fenton Jr. briefly attended university before he was drafted during the Korean War, and he served his country with honor and distinction in the United States Army from 1951 to 1953. Fenton Jr. served in the 6th Infantry Division, where he was a clerk-typist at ordnance battalion headquarters in Nancy, France. He was honorably discharged with the rank of sergeant.

Fenton Jr. received a bachelor's degree in 1957 and a master's degree in 1960 from Eastern Oregon College. He continued his education at the University of Nevada, Reno, with an administrative degree in education in 1963.

George Fenton Jr. married Joyce Joann Kroenlein in 1958, and together they raised two daughters. Fenton Jr. worked as a teacher, coach and administrator in the Pine Eagle School District and Umatilla School District. He retired as the Umatilla School District superintendent in 1996, culminating an exemplary career in education that lasted nearly four decades.

Fenton Jr. was active in his community as a member of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, Lions Club International, Kiwanis International, Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, Phi Delta Kappa, and Hermiston First United Methodist Church. Fenton Jr. also served on the Umatilla City Council from 1997 to 2015, including brief periods as the mayor pro tempore.

Fenton Jr. enjoyed an active outdoor life, especially fishing and hunting in the Wallowa Mountains. He loved spending time with his family, working on antique cars, collecting coins, photography, and gardening.

George Fenton Jr. passed away on November 21, 2019. He was preceded in death by his beloved wife, Joyce, his parents, and his five siblings. Fenton Jr. was survived by his daughters, Jonnie and Kristle, two grandsons, and many nieces, nephews and cousins. He will be forever remembered as a dedicated educator and a gentleman statesman who touched countless lives and made his community a better place.

House Concurrent Resolution 13 celebrates the life and accomplishments of George Ira Fenton Jr., recognizes and honors his contributions to the people of this state.