House Resolution 5

Sponsored by COMMITTEE ON RULES (at the request of House Special Committee on Modernizing the People's Legislature)

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.

Establishes rules of proceeding of House of Representatives requiring House committees to continue to accept remote testimony and to continue to invest in emergency preparedness. Directs Speaker of House of Representatives to appoint task force to study creation of nonpartisan Oregon Legislative Education and Outreach Office to develop civics education, and directs task force to report its findings. Requests Legislative Administration Visitor Services to expand and revise education resources to facilitate inclusive access. Requests Legislative Administration and Legislative Policy and Research Office to continue to improve language translation and interpretation services. Requests periodic review of public art displayed in Capitol to ensure art reflects specified values and is welcoming to all Oregonians. Requests Legislative Administrator to research how to make Capitol more user-friendly, including provision of specified sign information. Requests Joint Committee on Ways and Means and Legislative Assembly to provide full funding for upgrading voting system in House of Representatives.

Requests House of Representatives for Eighty-second Legislative Assembly to review progress on recommendations made in resolution.

HOUSE RESOLUTION

Whereas the House Special Committee on Modernizing the People's Legislature held informational and public hearings during the 2021 regular session of the Eighty-first Legislative Assembly on the following topics:

(a) The Public Commission on the Legislature that met in 2005 and 2006;
(b) How to improve public access to the Legislative Assembly through the provision of language and translation services and virtual testimony;
(c) The experience of being in the Capitol building as a workplace or as a place to visit and learn about Oregon;
(d) The inclusion of Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC) and tribal communities;
(e) Legislative service and compensation for legislators and legislative staff;
(f) Alternative voting methods;
(g) School tours of the Capitol and civics education;
(h) The challenges of being a member of the Legislative Assembly and navigating other employment;
(i) Remote participation in legislative committee proceedings;
(j) Student research on reforming Oregon's legislative democracy; and
(k) Professional ethics standards for legislative nonpartisan offices; and

Whereas the House of Representatives passed House Concurrent Resolution 24 in 2017, although the measure failed to be adopted by the Senate; and

Whereas Legislative Administration Information Services and the Legislative Policy and Research Office took action consistent with House Concurrent Resolution 24 (2017) by establishing and implementing the necessary infrastructure to enable remote participation in legislative committee proceedings; and

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.

LC 3851
Whereas the COVID-19 pandemic led to the physical closure of access to the Capitol by members of the public and required members of the Legislative Assembly to participate in committee proceedings remotely; and

Whereas Oregonians also faced wildfires and an ice storm in 2020 and 2021; and

Whereas Oregonians are resilient in the face of public health and natural disasters and expect their legislature to be resilient as well; and

Whereas resilience warrants the Legislative Assembly to plan for and be prepared for future emergencies that impact the work of the Legislative Assembly; and

Whereas the hard work of Legislative Administration and the Legislative Policy and Research Office made remote committee participation in the 2021 regular session possible and a success; and

Whereas Legislative Administration Visitor Services is responsible for guided tours of the Capitol; and

Whereas Legislative Administration Visitor Services works with the Oregon Department of Education to develop lesson plans in support of Capitol tours; and

Whereas Capitol tours include a civics education component; and

Whereas the Capitol is a visitor destination that includes numerous pieces of public art; and

Whereas the Legislative Administrator, pursuant to the performance of the administrator’s duties under ORS 173.720, has responsibility for maintaining the permanent and rotating exhibits of art within the Capitol; and

Whereas public art within the Capitol includes art acquired through the One Percent for Art Program overseen by the Oregon Arts Commission; and

Whereas public art within the Capitol is also exhibited through efforts of the Oregon State Capitol Foundation, which provides funding through the Pacific Wonderland license plate program; and

Whereas the House of Representatives uses a voting system that has been in use for many years and is reaching the end of the useful life for the system; and

Whereas the Office of the Chief Clerk has researched the cost and feasibility of upgrading the voting system in the House of Representatives; and

Whereas the Capitol is also a workplace where many people conduct business; and

Whereas Oregon is made up of diverse communities that want to understand the legislative process and to feel empowered to engage in the legislative process; and

Whereas everyone needs to be heard, regardless of race, ethnicity, languages spoken or disability; now, therefore,

Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of Oregon:

(1) Subsections (2) and (10) of this resolution constitute rules of proceeding of the House of Representatives.

(2) Committees of the House of Representatives shall continue to accept remote testimony.

(3) The Speaker of the House of Representatives shall appoint a task force to study the creation of a nonpartisan legislative office to be known as the Oregon Legislative Education and Outreach Office, to develop a civics education and outreach plan that is in compliance with curriculum standards for students in primary and secondary grades and that provides instruction on Oregon’s form of government. The task force shall prepare a report on its findings and shall submit the report to the Speaker on or before December 1, 2022.

(4) The House of Representatives requests Legislative Administration Visitor Services to continue to expand and revise lesson plans and other resources, including education resources created
by the Office of the Chief Clerk, to facilitate inclusive access to the Capitol, including access for
children and adults through remote participation by community groups.

(5) The House of Representatives requests Legislative Administration and the Legislative Policy
and Research Office to continue to improve language translation and interpretation services, in or-
der to ensure that the public has better knowledge about and access to the legislative process.

(6) The House of Representatives requests the Oregon Arts Commission to convene a periodic
review of public art displayed in the Capitol to ensure that the art reflects the history, present, fu-
ture, regions, diverse peoples, natural beauty and resources of Oregon, and to also ensure that art
in the Capitol is welcoming to all Oregonians.

(7) The House of Representatives requests the Legislative Administrator to research adding
digital signs outside of committee hearing rooms and on meeting live broadcasts that provide infor-
mation about measures that is contemporaneous with when those measures are actually being heard
in committee.

(8) The House of Representatives requests the Legislative Administrator to research how to
make the Capitol a more user-friendly environment for all individuals who work in the Capitol, in-
cluding lobbyists and members of the public.

(9) The House of Representatives requests the Joint Committee on Ways and Means and the
Legislative Assembly to provide full funding for upgrading the voting system in the House of Rep-
resentatives.

(10) The House of Representatives shall continue to invest in emergency preparedness.

(11) The House of Representatives of the Eighty-first Legislative Assembly requests the House
of Representatives of the Eighty-second Legislative Assembly to review the progress made on these
recommendations in the 2023 regular session of the Legislative Assembly.

[3]