

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

1
2 Whereas the House Special Committee on Modernizing the People's Legislature held informa-
3 tional and public hearings during the 2021 regular session of the Eighty-first Legislative Assembly
4 on the following topics:

5 (a) The Public Commission on the Legislature that met in 2005 and 2006;

6 (b) How to improve public access to the Legislative Assembly through the provision of language
7 and translation services and virtual testimony;

8 (c) The experience of being in the Capitol building as a workplace or as a place to visit and
9 learn about Oregon;

10 (d) The inclusion of Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC) and tribal communities;

11 (e) Legislative service and compensation for legislators and legislative staff;

12 (f) Alternative voting methods;

13 (g) School tours of the Capitol and civics education;

14 (h) The challenges of being a member of the Legislative Assembly and navigating other em-
15 ployment;

16 (i) Remote participation in legislative committee proceedings;

17 (j) Student research on reforming Oregon's legislative democracy; and

18 (k) Professional ethics standards for legislative nonpartisan offices; and

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

21 Whereas Legislative Administration Information Services and the Legislative Policy and Re-
22 search Office took action consistent with House Concurrent Resolution 24 (2017) by establishing and
23 implementing the necessary infrastructure to enable remote participation in legislative committee
24 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.

1 Whereas the COVID-19 pandemic led to the physical closure of access to the Capitol by mem-
2 bers of the public and required members of the Legislative Assembly to participate in committee
3 proceedings remotely; and

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

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

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

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

11 Whereas Legislative Administration Visitor Services is responsible for guided tours of the Cap-
12 itol; and

13 Whereas Legislative Administration Visitor Services works with the Oregon Department of Ed-
14 ucation to develop lesson plans in support of Capitol tours; and

15 Whereas Capitol tours include a civics education component; and

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

17 Whereas the Legislative Administrator, pursuant to the performance of the administrator's du-
18 ties under ORS 173.720, has responsibility for maintaining the permanent and rotating exhibits of
19 art within the Capitol; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

32 Whereas everyone needs to be heard, regardless of race, ethnicity, languages spoken or disabil-
33 ity; now, therefore,

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

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

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

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

44 (4) The House of Representatives requests Legislative Administration Visitor Services to con-
45 tinue to expand and revise lesson plans and other resources, including education resources created

1 by the Office of the Chief Clerk, to facilitate inclusive access to the Capitol, including access for
2 children and adults through remote participation by community groups.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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