## **Senate Concurrent Resolution 8**

Sponsored by Senator GIROD; Senators FINDLEY, THATCHER (Presession filed.)

## **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.** 

In memoriam: Former Secretary of State, Superintendent of Public Instruction and state Representative Norma Jean Paulus, 1933-2019.

1	CONCURRENT RESOLUTION													
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Whereas Norma Paulus was born Norma Jean Petersen on March 13, 1933, in Belgrade, Nebraska; and

Whereas Norma Paulus was raised in Burns, Oregon, during the tribulations of the Great Depression; and

Whereas in 1950, Norma Paulus graduated from Burns Union High School, where she was an exceptional student, a gymnast and the editor of the school newspaper and yearbook; and

Whereas Norma Paulus was stricken with polio at age 19, and she spent weeks in the hospital in an iron lung; and

Whereas after winning her battle with polio, Norma Paulus moved to Salem, Oregon, where she worked as a legal secretary at the Oregon Supreme Court; and

Whereas Norma Paulus earned such high marks on entrance exams that she was admitted to law school at Willamette University despite not having an undergraduate degree; and

Whereas Norma Paulus was the only woman in her law school class, and she graduated with honors in 1962 and passed the bar exam the same year; and

Whereas Norma Paulus married fellow law student William Paulus in 1958, and together the couple raised two children, Elizabeth and Fritz; and

Whereas Norma Paulus worked in private practice as an attorney, and in 1969 she was appointed to the Marion-Polk Boundary Commission by Governor Tom McCall; and

Whereas in 1970, Norma Paulus was elected to the Oregon House of Representatives, where she represented the people of Marion County for three terms; and

Whereas Norma Paulus was instrumental in the formation of the Oregon Women's Political Caucus, the first such group in the Legislative Assembly's history, and the bipartisan, cross-chamber caucus had a key role in passing women's rights legislation and in securing Oregon's ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment; and

Whereas during her career as a legislator, Norma Paulus was widely respected for her effective bipartisan work in passing major legislation involving the environment, land use, education and open government; and

Whereas Norma Paulus was elected Secretary of State in 1976, becoming the first woman elected to statewide office in Oregon; and

Whereas during her historic two terms as Secretary of State, Norma Paulus battled election

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fraud, overhauled public records procedures, protected Oregonians with tough audits into wasteful spending and poorly run programs and oversaw Oregon's first vote-by-mail election; and

Whereas Norma Paulus was the Republican candidate for Governor in 1986, but she narrowly lost the general election; and

Whereas Norma Paulus served on the Northwest Power and Conservation Council from 1987 to 1989; and

Whereas Norma Paulus was appointed Superintendent of Public Instruction in 1990, and she was subsequently elected to two full terms, becoming the first woman in Oregon to hold that office; and

Whereas during her tenure as superintendent, Norma Paulus worked tirelessly on behalf of Oregon's children and families, earning national recognition for revamping Oregon's educational system and implementing groundbreaking performance standards and assessment measures; and

Whereas after leaving elective office, Norma Paulus remained very active in civic life, serving as executive director of the Oregon Historical Society as well as on the boards of the Oregon State Capitol Foundation, the High Desert Museum, the Oregon Coast Aquarium, the Oregon Garden and the City Club of Portland; and

Whereas Norma Paulus received a Distinguished Service Award from the University of Oregon and honorary degrees from Willamette University, Lewis & Clark College, Whitman College and Linfield University; and

Whereas Norma Paulus brought intelligence, integrity, hard work and common sense to every position she held; and

Whereas Norma Paulus' decades of public service were a defining era in Oregon history, and she helped lead this state through a period of tremendous social change, growth and economic revitalization; and

Whereas Norma Paulus faced the obstacles in her life with unstinting determination, courage and dignity; and

Whereas Norma Paulus made history and she always made a positive difference, embodying with her exceptional life story the motto of the State of Oregon: "she flies with her own wings"; and

Whereas Norma Paulus passed away on February 28, 2019; and

Whereas Norma Paulus will be forever remembered as a pioneering and visionary leader whose career of dedicated public service touched the lives of so many and left an indelible imprint on the State of Oregon; now, therefore,

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

That we, the members of the Eighty-first Legislative Assembly, honor and celebrate the remarkable life and historic accomplishments of Norma Jean Paulus, and we express our gratitude for her contributions to the people of this state; and be it further

Resolved, That a copy of this resolution shall be presented to the family of Norma Paulus as an expression of our sympathy and condolences.

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