

SB 583 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Veterans, Emergency Management, Federal and World Affairs

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Meeting Dates: 1/26

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Designates the fourth Saturday in November of each year as Holodomor Remembrance Day. Takes effect on 91st day following adjournment sine die.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

The term "Holodomor," which translates literally in Ukrainian as "death by hunger" or "death by starvation," was coined in the 1980s to refer to events from 1932-33 in the former Soviet Union. Parts of Ukraine had been part of the Austrian and Russian empires for two centuries, but following the end of World War I and the fall of the Russian tsarist monarchy, Ukraine declared itself an independent republic. The fledgling nation fought and lost a war for independence and was incorporated into the Soviet Union in 1922. During subsequent political repressions under Josef Stalin, political repression and economic collectivization increased, leading eventually to Stalin's "Law of Five Stalks of Grain," instituted on August 7, 1932. This new policy criminalized taking any produce from a collective field, punishable by prison or by death. By early 1933, more than 50,000 Ukrainians had been convicted, and over 2,000 executed. The resulting famine led to the deaths of millions of Ukrainians, the exact number of which may never be known.

In November 2006, Ukraine President Leonid Kuchma designated the fourth Saturday in November as Holodomor Remembrance Day. Oregon similarly designated Holodomor Remembrance Day in 2017 with the adoption of Senate Concurrent Resolution 3.