

HCR 24 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Carrier: Rep. Reynolds

House Committee On Rules

Action Date: 03/09/23

Action: Be Adopted.

Vote: 7-0-0-0

Yeas: 7 - Breese-Iverson, Fahey, Kropf, Nosse, Scharf, Valderrama, Wallan

Fiscal: No fiscal impact

Revenue: No revenue impact

Prepared By: Melissa Leoni, LPRO Analyst

Meeting Dates: 3/9

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

In memoriam: Leonard Jules "Len" Bergstein, 1945-2022.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Len Bergstein's love of family, friends, and community
- Len Bergstein as a mentor and inspiration to many
- Recollections of Len Bergstein's values, his contributions to Oregon, and how much it meant to receive his praise

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Len Bergstein was born in New York City on November 13, 1945. He attended Wesleyan University and earned his J.D. from New York University School of Law while teaching middle school and taking summer courses, bunking in a room across the hall from his two younger brothers.

Len Bergstein moved to Oregon in 1972 at the invitation of his second-year law school roommate, Steve McCarthy, who immediately had him summit Mount Hood.

Len Bergstein began his career in politics at the Legislative Action Center at Legal Aid. He worked for and with some of Oregon's most iconic leaders—Betty Roberts, Bob Straub, Gladys McCoy, Neil Goldschmidt, Charles Jordan, Vera Katz, and Ted Kulongoski, among many others. He influenced agriculture, technology, health care, urban planning, Indigenous-owned casinos, forestry, shipping, manufacturing, winemaking, real estate, hospitality, transportation, and athletics throughout Oregon for more than 40 years through his influential firm, Northwest Strategies.

Len Bergstein volunteered his time and counsel for many Oregon organizations, including the Oregon Museum of Science and Industry, Sport Oregon, Oregon Sports Angels, and Albina Vision Trust. He shared his view of the world through a political lens for viewers of Portland television station KGW. He was well respected in the Jewish community and a longtime member of Congregation Beth Israel.

Len Bergstein was a devoted family man, a loving husband and father, and a doting grandfather, who loved following the careers of all his children. Len Bergstein loved spending time with his family all over Oregon, including summiting Black Butte with his children during summer stints at Black Butte Ranch, seeking out favorite seafood haunts with his wife while staying at resorts and hotels on the Oregon coast, exploring Oregon's wine country, and bringing quarters for his grandchildren to cram into the fish food machine at Wizard Falls Fish Hatchery on the Metolius River.

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Len Bergstein was the standard-bearer for his family and is survived by his wife of 38 years, Betsy; his children, David Bergstein, Mikhael Romain (Evan Hansen), and Danelle Romain (R.D. Symms); his two younger brothers; and four grandchildren. He was revered as a teacher and storyteller by his family. He was able to make whomever he spoke to feel like they were the most important person in the room, and he punctuated many exchanges with a reassuring smile, if not outright guileless laughter. Len Bergstein believed and always told his children that “a setback is a setup for a comeback.”

Len Bergstein left a legacy in his adopted home—Oregon—and the city he championed for decades—Portland. He inspired all who worked with and for him by approaching every day, issue, and relationship with unmatched passion and tenacity. Oregonians from all walks of life sought Len’s counsel and guidance to build partnerships that could navigate the most labyrinthine bureaucratic obstacle courses.

House Concurrent Resolution 24 recognizes and honors Leonard Jules “Len” Bergstein for his lifetime of counsel, service, and dedication to make Oregon a better place to live, work, and play.