

House Bill 2955

Sponsored by Representative RUIZ (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**.

Designates _____ of each year as Bracero Program Day.
Declares emergency, effective on passage.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1
2 Relating to Bracero Program Day; and declaring an emergency.

3 Whereas between 1942 and 1947, thousands of Mexican nationals supported the economy of the
4 State of Oregon and national wartime efforts through the Emergency Farm Labor Supply Program
5 (the Bracero program); and

6 Whereas while providing immense contributions to this state and the nation, they faced violence,
7 discrimination, unfair labor practices, contempt and humiliation; and

8 Whereas they lived in substandard and inhumane conditions and performed backbreaking work
9 while being separated from their families; and

10 Whereas when the Bracero program ended, they were deported; and

11 Whereas their story and contributions have been left out of the history books and are not part
12 of the current consciousness of most Oregonians; and

13 Whereas throughout the history of Oregon and the nation, the contributions and sacrifices of
14 marginalized communities have been whitewashed, erased, minimized and forgotten; and

15 Whereas a state holiday commemorating the Bracero program honors the contributions of the
16 Mexican nationals who participated in the program, and it also honors the contributions of all
17 Latinx communities before and since the program, as well as the continued contributions of Latinx
18 communities in this state; now, therefore,

19 **Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:**

20 **SECTION 1.** _____ of each year is designated as Bracero Program Day.

21 **SECTION 2.** This 2023 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public
22 peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2023 Act takes effect
23 on its passage.
24 _____

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.