

# House Concurrent Resolution 24

Sponsored by Representative REYNOLDS, Senators STEINER, DEMBROW

## 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: Leonard Jules "Len" Bergstein, 1945-2022.

## CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1  
2       Whereas when political strategist Leonard Jules "Len" Bergstein died on October 17, 2022,  
3 Oregon lost a sharp political mind and an eternal optimist; and

4       Whereas Len Bergstein left a lasting legacy in his adopted home—Oregon—and the city he  
5 championed for decades—Portland; and

6       Whereas Len Bergstein inspired all who worked with and for him by approaching every day,  
7 issue and relationship with unmatched passion and tenacity; and

8       Whereas Oregonians from all walks of life sought Len's counsel and guidance to build partner-  
9 ships that could navigate the most labyrinthine bureaucratic obstacle courses; and

10       Whereas Len Bergstein shared his view of the world through a political lens for viewers of  
11 Portland television station KGW; and

12       Whereas Len Bergstein was well respected in the Jewish community, a longtime member of  
13 Congregation Beth Israel and a true mensch; and

14       Whereas Len Bergstein was born in New York City on November 13, 1945, and he attended  
15 Wesleyan University; and

16       Whereas Len Bergstein earned his J.D. from New York University School of Law while teaching  
17 middle school and taking summer courses, bunking in a room across the hall from his two younger  
18 brothers; and

19       Whereas Len Bergstein moved to Oregon in 1972 at the invitation of his second-year law school  
20 roommate, Steve McCarthy, who immediately had Len summit Mount Hood; and

21       Whereas Len Bergstein began his career in politics at the Legislative Action Center at Legal  
22 Aid; and

23       Whereas Len Bergstein worked for and with some of Oregon's most iconic leaders—Betty  
24 Roberts, Bob Straub, Gladys McCoy, Neil Goldschmidt, Charles Jordan, Vera Katz and Ted  
25 Kulongoski, among many others—as they translated values and disruption into urban institutions;  
26 and

27       Whereas Len Bergstein influenced agriculture, technology, health care, urban planning,  
28 Indigenous-owned casinos, forestry, shipping, manufacturing, winemaking, real estate, hospitality,  
29 transportation and athletics throughout Oregon for more than 40 years through his influential firm,  
30 Northwest Strategies; and

31       Whereas Len Bergstein was known as a fighter for all his clients, and he watched them and  
32 their colleagues apply iconic private-sector leadership skills to notable public projects that benefit

**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 us all, including Tom Moyer (TMT Development), Kathryn Harrison (Confederated Tribes of the  
2 Grand Ronde Community of Oregon), Harry Demorest (Columbia Forest Products), Marty Myers  
3 (Threemile Canyon Farms), Marsha Congdon (US West), Jay Zidell (The Zidell Companies), Gun  
4 Denhart (Hanna Andersson), Bill Furman (The Greenbrier Companies), Susan Sokol Blosser (Sokol  
5 Blosser Winery), Dave Sanders and Albert DiPiero (ZoomCare), Sam Naito (Made in Oregon), Harry  
6 Glickman (Portland Trail Blazers), Rukaiyah Adams (Albina Vision Trust), Jim Etzel (Sport Oregon)  
7 and Kate Delhagen (Oregon Sports Angels); and

8       Whereas Len Bergstein volunteered his time and counsel for many Oregon organizations, in-  
9 cluding the Oregon Museum of Science and Industry, Sport Oregon, Oregon Sports Angels and  
10 Albina Vision Trust; and

11       Whereas Len Bergstein’s insatiable curiosity fueled his desire to build meaningful relationships  
12 that could propel him onward in his pursuit of expertise; and

13       Whereas Len Bergstein was a devoted family man, a loving husband and father and a doting  
14 grandfather, who loved following the careers of all his children, and he was especially thrilled that  
15 his son David had a notable career as a Democratic communications operative, especially in his  
16 current role as communications director of the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee; and

17       Whereas Len Bergstein loved spending time with his family all over Oregon, including  
18 summiting Black Butte with his children during summer stints at Black Butte Ranch, seeking out  
19 favorite seafood haunts with his wife while staying at resorts and hotels on the Oregon coast, ex-  
20 ploring Oregon’s wine country and bringing quarters for his grandchildren to cram into the fish food  
21 machine at Wizard Falls Fish Hatchery on the Metolius River; and

22       Whereas Len Bergstein was the standard-bearer for his family and is survived by his wife of 38  
23 years, Betsy; his children, David Bergstein, Mikhael Romain (Evan Hansen) and Danelle Romain  
24 (R.D. Symms); his two younger brothers; and four grandchildren; and

25       Whereas Len Bergstein was revered as a teacher and storyteller by his family; and

26       Whereas Len Bergstein was able to make whomever he spoke to feel like they were the most  
27 important person in the room, and he punctuated many exchanges with a reassuring smile, if not  
28 outright guileless laughter; and

29       Whereas Len Bergstein believed and always told his children that “a setback is a setup for a  
30 comeback”; now, therefore,

31 **Be It Resolved by the Legislative Assembly of the State of Oregon:**

32       That we, the members of the Eighty-second Legislative Assembly, recognize and honor Leonard  
33 Jules “Len” Bergstein for his lifetime of counsel, service and dedication to make Oregon a better  
34 place to live, work and play for all of us; and be it further

35       Resolved, That a copy of this resolution shall be presented to the family of Len Bergstein as an  
36 expression of our sympathy and condolences.