

SCR 204 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Rules

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Meeting Dates: 2/20

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure celebrates the life and accomplishments of Bill Bradbury (1949-2023) and recognizes and honors his contributions to Oregon.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Bill Bradbury was born on May 29, 1949, in Chicago, Illinois, to William and Lorraine Bradbury. He moved to Oregon in 1969, where he worked in the news media in Bandon, Eugene, and Portland.

Bill Bradbury's political career began when he was elected to the Oregon Legislative Assembly in 1980. He served as a member of the House of Representatives from 1981 to 1984 and as a member of the Senate from 1985 to 1995, where he was elected Senate President in 1993.

Bill Bradbury retired from the Legislative Assembly in 1995 to fight the shrinking of salmon populations with the organization For the Sake of Salmon (FSOS). He was known then as "Mr. Fish" and served as director of FSOS until 1999, when he was appointed Oregon's 23rd Secretary of State by Governor John Kitzhaber. Bill Bradbury served as Secretary of State for a decade, with a sharp focus on improving Oregon's voting systems and establishing more transparent campaign practices.

Bill Bradbury was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis in 1981 and managed the disease through more than four decades of rigorous public service with unflagging enthusiasm and gratitude. He ran for Governor in 2010 with a series of witty campaign ads highlighting his condition instead of hiding it.

Bill Bradbury's efforts to improve the lives of Oregonians led to the creation of Oregon's statewide vote-by-mail system, the first in the country providing voters with easier access to voting, increased transparency, and renewed faith that their votes mattered. Bill Bradbury also helped establish ORESTAR, Oregon's online political campaign contributions system, which makes campaign finance information easily accessible by the public.

Bill Bradbury was a fierce champion for the environment, advocating for the preservation of watersheds and wildlife habitats, giving lectures on climate change at Oregon high schools and colleges, and serving on the Northwest Power and Conservation Council from 2010 to 2017.

Bill Bradbury died on April 14, 2023, while enjoying a six-month cruise around the world with his wife of 36 years, Katy Eymann. He faced all of life's challenges with hope, resilience, and relentless optimism and leaves behind a legacy that will endure for generations to come.