

## HCR 18 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

### House Committee On Rules

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**Meeting Dates:** 3/17

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#### **WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

The measure recognizes and honors the League of Oregon Cities on the 100th anniversary of its founding, celebrates its significant contributions to the State of Oregon, and encourages continued collaboration in advancing the interests and well-being of all Oregonians.

Fiscal impact: No fiscal impact

Revenue impact: No revenue impact

#### **ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

#### **EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:**

No amendment.

#### **BACKGROUND:**

The League of Oregon Cities was founded in 1925 by 25 Oregon cities with the mission of providing support, advocacy, and resources to all incorporated cities in Oregon. For a century, the League of Oregon Cities has played a pivotal role in advancing municipal governance, promoting best practices, and fostering collaboration among cities, thereby enhancing the quality of life of Oregonians throughout this state.

Through initiatives including legislative advocacy, professional development and the delivery of essential services and resources, the League of Oregon Cities has empowered local governments to effectively address the ever-evolving needs of their communities. Throughout its 100 years of existence, the League of Oregon Cities has lobbied tirelessly in advancement of issues that are vital to all cities in Oregon, including sustainable development, infrastructure improvement, public safety, equity in local governance, and the preservation of home rule authority.

Oregon's 241 cities are home to approximately 3 million residents, accounting for 70 percent of the state's total population. These cities serve as the economic, cultural and social hubs of the state, providing essential infrastructure services and opportunities for the majority of Oregonians. Continued investment in city infrastructure, including water systems, roads, and housing, is critical to supporting the needs of this substantial population and driving statewide economic growth.

In the 1930s, the League of Oregon Cities began advocating for the creation of the statewide retirement plan that would come to be known as the Public Employees Retirement System (PERS).

For decades, the League of Oregon Cities has prevailed in its efforts to preserve public lands as a free resource for recreational use by the public.

In 2014, the League of Oregon Cities was a partner in creating the Regional Solutions Program, a resource for community and economic development that provides collaborative governance, regional coordination, and creative problem-solving to communities throughout this state.

In 2017, the League of Oregon Cities prevailed in its advocacy for House Bill 2017, which provided a critical funding increase for local government investments and state projects in key transportation corridors, and which is, to date, the largest multimodal transportation infrastructure package in state history. The League of Oregon

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Cities also contributed to the creation of the Small City Allotment Program in 2017, which provides an annual allocation of state funds for local transportation projects for incorporated cities with populations of 5,000 or less.

In 2023, the League of Oregon Cities saw major legislative successes as it worked with partners to jointly address affordable housing and the housing shortage in Oregon. Also in 2023, in response to the addiction and public safety crisis ravaging communities throughout Oregon, the League of Oregon Cities joined with partners in law enforcement to form the Public Safety Coalition, creating a comprehensive reform package for Oregon's substance abuse policies.

Across a century of steadfast advocacy, the League of Oregon Cities has made incomparable contributions to the resilience and vitality of communities throughout this state and improved the lives of all Oregonians.