

A-Engrossed House Resolution 3

Ordered by the House June 9
Including House Amendments dated June 9

Sponsored by Representatives NELSON, ISADORE; Representatives ANDERSEN, CHAICHI, FRAGALA, GAMBA, HUDSON, LIVELY, MARSH, MCDONALD, MUNOZ, NERON, NOSSE, SANCHEZ, VALDERRAMA, WALTERS, WATANABE

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. The statement includes a measure digest written in compliance with applicable readability standards.

Digest: Honors the history of Black drag in Oregon. (Flesch Readability Score: 61.2).
Recognizes and honors the history of Black drag in Oregon.

HOUSE RESOLUTION

1
2 Whereas Oregon has a rich tradition of building, supporting and celebrating LGBTQ communi-
3 ties, and the Black drag community in Portland is among the most vibrant and storied in the entire
4 United States; and

5 Whereas June is Pride Month, a time when many members of the LGBTQ community honor the
6 history and struggles that led to the advancements in rights for LGBTQ people today; and

7 Whereas Juneteenth commemorates the emancipation of enslaved Black people and is celebrated
8 today as a national and state holiday; and

9 Whereas Portland's Black drag community is deeply rooted in an illustrious history of fantasy,
10 and members of the community have significantly contributed to the Black drag entertainment cul-
11 ture, fostering creativity and inclusivity since as far back as 1958; and

12 Whereas in 1969, Rochelle was crowned the first Black Rose Queen, Rose Queen X, at the "Days
13 of Wine and Roses" Fall Ball; and

14 Whereas in 1970, Portland's Black drag community connected with the blossoming concept of
15 the Court with the formation of two parallel nonprofit organizations, the Portland Forum and the
16 Imperial Sovereign Rose Court (ISRC); and

17 Whereas prior to the election of the newly designated title of "Rose Empress," it was determined
18 that, to ensure that nothing be taken away from Portland's own unique experiences in drag history,
19 all past "Queens" would be assigned their appropriate chronological numbers, in sequence to the
20 "Rose Empress" designation; and

21 Whereas in 1971, Talani was crowned the Portland Forum's first Black Rose Empress, Rose
22 Empress XIII, and Lillian Carter was crowned Black Princess I; and

23 Whereas in 1973, Irvina, Lillian Carter, Leora and Desi presented a grand, first-in-the-nation
24 all-Black Queens entrance at the ISRC Coronation; and

25 Whereas in 1975, the United Ebony Kingdom (UEK) was formed, and Irvina was crowned Queen
26 I of the UEK that same year; and

27 Whereas 1975 also ushered in a new era as the last Sovereign Rose Empress gave her blessing

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 to, and relinquished a portion of her territory to, the newly formed Imperial Court of the Emerald
2 Empire (ISCEE) in Eugene; and

3 Whereas in 1976, ISRC elevated its first Black Monarch by public election, and upon his
4 crowning, Rose Emperor II Harold became the first Black Emperor in the International Court Sys-
5 tem; and

6 Whereas on October 16, 1977, with deepest admiration for those trailblazers that helped build
7 up the Black drag community in Oregon, Rose Empress XIX proclaimed “That each Empress shall
8 bear one number and one number only, and the number from the year of their reign shall never be
9 altered from what we, the people, have established in the past”; and

10 Whereas in 1977, LaWanda Jackson was crowned Rosebud 1977, a pioneering title that marked
11 the beginning of her influential journey in drag culture; and

12 Whereas in 1978, territory would be adjusted again when ISRC granted sovereignty to the Im-
13 perial Sovereign Court of the Willamette Empire (ISCWE) in Salem; and

14 Whereas in 1980, Misty Waters was crowned ISRC’s first Black Trans Princess XI; and

15 Whereas in 1983, Rosey Waters was crowned ISRC’s first Black Rose Empress, Rose Empress
16 XXVI; and

17 Whereas in 1986, Lady Elaine Peacock was crowned ISRC’s Rose Empress XXIX; and

18 Whereas in 1988, Cicely was crowned ISRC’s Rose Empress XXXI; and

19 Whereas also in 1988, the Portland Forum and ISRC merged, and the organization operated from
20 that point forward as a newly unified ISRC; and

21 Whereas in 1993, Maria Peters Lake was crowned ISRC’s first Black Female Rose Empress, Rose
22 Empress XXXVI; and

23 Whereas in 1997, Diva Simone Slaughter was crowned ISCEE’s first Black Empress, Empress
24 XXIV; and

25 Whereas in 2000, Anastasia Dubois Rosebud was crowned Rosebud 2000, marking a pivotal mo-
26 ment in her longstanding legacy in drag performance; and

27 Whereas in 2001, Poison Waters, who is renowned for her advocacy work on behalf of BIPOC
28 and LGBTQ communities in and around Portland, was crowned ISRC’s Rose Empress XLIV; and

29 Whereas in 2001, DiVyne Shawnte Duv earned the title of Rosebud 2001, honoring her role as
30 a trailblazer in drag and LGBTQ activism; and

31 Whereas in 2002, Michel’le Campbell Starr was recognized for her significant contributions to
32 Portland’s drag community when she was named Rosebud 2002; and

33 Whereas in 2008, Krystal Lynn Benoit was crowned ISRC’s first Black Trans Rose Empress,
34 Rose Empress L; and

35 Whereas in 2009, Karess Ann Slaughter was crowned ISCEE’s Empress XXXVI; and

36 Whereas in 2010, Sheniqua Volt was crowned Miss Gay Pride; and

37 Whereas Isaiah Esquire’s reign as Mr. Gay Pride 2010 marked a significant milestone in the
38 community’s celebration of diversity and LGBTQ visibility; and

39 Whereas in 2011, Sativa Platinum was crowned Rosebud 2011; and

40 Whereas in 2011, Kourtnei Capree Duv was crowned Sweethearts of Portland’s Miss Sweetheart
41 XXIII, a title that exemplified her commitment to the art of drag and community engagement and
42 solidified her place in Portland’s legendary LGBTQ entertainment scene; and

43 Whereas in 2012, Isaiah Esquire was crowned the first Mr. Gay Oregon United States, honoring
44 his commitment to advocacy and representation; and

45 Whereas in 2012, Kourtnei Capree Duv earned the prestigious title of La Femme Magnifique

1 International, showcasing her outstanding artistry and impact on a global scale; and

2 Whereas in 2012, Sheniqua Volt earned the title of Miss Poder Latino, cementing her influence
3 at the intersection of the queer and Latino communities; and

4 Whereas in 2012, Sheniqua Volt was also honored as Miss Larubia; and

5 Whereas in 2014, Stefhannie Mercury DuPont Shade was crowned Miss Gay Pride; and

6 Whereas in 2014, Isaiah Esquire made history again as the first to be crowned Mr. NW FIERCE;
7 and

8 Whereas in 2015, Kourtni Capree Duv was crowned Miss NW FIERCE, solidifying her status as
9 a boundary-breaking presence in the Northwest drag scene; and

10 Whereas in 2015, Kimber K. Shade was crowned Sweethearts of Portland's Miss Sweetheart
11 XXVII; and

12 Whereas in 2017, Flawless Shade was crowned Sweethearts of Portland's Miss Sweetheart XXIX;
13 and

14 Whereas in 2017, Aunjelle Volt was crowned Miss La Femme Magnifique International, repre-
15 senting the Portland drag scene with excellence and commitment to creativity; and

16 Whereas in 2019, Flawless Shade was crowned Miss Gay Oregon XLVII; and

17 Whereas in 2019, Kiesha Monet Volt was named Miss La Femme Magnifique International, es-
18 tablishing her as a key figure in Portland's drag and LGBTQ communities; and

19 Whereas in 2020, Poison Waters began teaching a "Histories of Drag Performance in Portland"
20 class at Portland Community College, with a prominent segment dedicated to the history of Black
21 drag in Oregon; and

22 Whereas in 2020, Rogue Storm Safari was crowned Sweethearts of Portland's Miss Sweetheart
23 XXXII; and

24 Whereas Isaiah Esquire was recognized as one of the Top 50 Burlesque Performers in the World
25 in 2020, 2021 and 2022, further cementing his influence and artistry within the international
26 burlesque and drag scenes; and

27 Whereas Isaiah Esquire was honored with the Honorary Sweetheart Award in 2021, recognizing
28 his contributions to the LGBTQ community; and

29 Whereas Isaiah Esquire was named a GLAPN Queer Hero in 2021, a testament to his advocacy
30 and leadership within the queer community; and

31 Whereas in 2021, Coco Jem Holiday was crowned Sweethearts of Portland's Miss Sweetheart
32 XXXIII, continuing to inspire others with her talent and advocacy in the Portland drag community;
33 and

34 Whereas 2022 saw ISRC's first all-Black reign, when Arcadian Campbell Starr was crowned Rose
35 Emperor XLV and T'Kara Campbell Starr was crowned Rose Empress LXIII; and

36 Whereas Isaiah Esquire received the Northwest Pioneer "Reigning a Difference" Award in 2022,
37 highlighting his ongoing dedication to inclusivity and positive change; and

38 Whereas Isaiah Esquire was honored with the Drag Excellence Award at the White Tusk
39 Awards 2023; and

40 Whereas in 2023, Flawless Shade was a finalist in "Painted with Raven," demonstrating her ar-
41 tistic flair and innovation in the realm of drag and performance; and

42 Whereas Flawless Shade also holds the title of Miss Gay Pride of Portland 2023-2024; and

43 Whereas in 2023, Alexis Campbell Starr was crowned ISRC's Rose Empress LXIV; and

44 Whereas in 2024, Devlin Lynn Phoénixx was crowned ISRC's Rose Empress LXV; and

45 Whereas in 2024, Flawless Shade starred in the music video for Logic's "Fear," a love letter to

1 Portland that showcased Flawless Shade’s dynamic talent and impact on both the drag and larger
2 entertainment industries; and

3 Whereas in 2024, Isaiah Esquire was honored as Mx. International Pride by the Imperial Sov-
4 ereign Rose Court; and

5 Whereas also in 2024, Rose Empress XLIV Poison Waters was named Queen Mother II of All
6 Oregon, a lifelong title which was vacated by Queen Mother I of All Oregon Rose Empress XV
7 Darcelle upon his death in 2023; and

8 Whereas Poison Waters is believed to be the first and only Black Queen Mother of a state
9 within the International Court System; and

10 Whereas many of the founding title holders in Oregon remain actively involved in the Court
11 system as highly respected members of the ISRC College of Monarchs; and

12 Whereas there have been decades of all-Black productions for various community charity or-
13 ganizations in Portland, including Peacock in the Park (1987-2004), Peacock After Dark (2008-2013),
14 Hot Chocolate (2010-present), Race Talks: Uniting to Break the Chains of Racism presents the An-
15 nual History of Black Drag in Portland (2022-2025) and Elite Blackspereience PDX (2025); and

16 Whereas several all-Black production companies that support Black drag performances, events
17 and media in Portland, including Demand Drag (2020-present), Kourtnei Capree Duv Entertainment
18 (2003-present), Coco’s Drag Closet (2020-present), Safari Productions (2018-present), Rogue Apostles
19 (2022-present) and Melange Productions (2018-present) came together to present Juneteenth Spirit
20 Week 2025; and

21 Whereas countless Black drag entertainers have made their mark in this state, and while many
22 have sadly passed away, Oregon has benefited tremendously from the indelible contributions these
23 pioneering performers have made to the Black drag scene in this state and across the country; now,
24 therefore,

25 **Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of Oregon:**

26 That we, the members of the House of Representatives of the Eighty-third Legislative Assembly,
27 recognize and honor Oregon’s rich history of Black drag, and we congratulate all those whose
28 spirited contributions have made Oregon’s Black drag community one of the most vibrant and vital
29 in the nation.

30