

SCR 23 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Rules

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Meeting Dates: 5/5

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure creates a ceremonial sister state relationship between Oregon and Cherkasy Oblast, Ukraine, resolves to stand in solidarity with the people of Ukraine, and condemns Russia's war against Ukraine.

FISCAL: No fiscal impact

REVENUE: No revenue impact

Senate Vote: Ayes, 26; Nays, 1; Excused, 3

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Sister partnerships between cities, states, and other subnational governments are partnerships promoting agreed-upon activities, cultural exchanges, and trade and business ties. Cherkasy Oblast is a state-equivalent entity with roughly 1.2 million residents, located in the geographic center of Ukraine. According to the Cherkasy Governor and the Rebuild Ukraine International Exhibition, Cherkasy has high employment and growth in manufacturing, an agricultural and industrial base with a growing service sector, and historical and natural tourism opportunities.

Ukraine declared independence from the Soviet Union in 1991. Russia began a large-scale invasion of Ukraine in February 2022, following Russian-backed fighters taking control of large portions of Donetsk and Luhansk in 2014, and Russia's annexation of Crimea in February of that same year. The war is currently described as one of attrition, and the World Bank estimates, through data ending December 31, 2024, that it would cost \$524 billion to rebuild Ukraine's economy.

The United Nations estimated 6.7 million refugees had left Ukraine by October 2024. As of November 2023, the Oregon Department of Human Services estimated more than 4,500 individuals from Ukraine had resettled in Oregon. The Department accepted applications from community agencies for part of \$2.25 million in federal funding to help Ukrainian refugees with housing, employment assistance, health care, and legal assistance.

There are more than 22,000 Ukrainian Americans in Oregon, and Oregon has been a home and refuge for Ukrainian immigrants for decades. Oregon was among the first U.S. states to officially recognize the tragedy of the Holodomor of 1932-1933 in Ukraine, including the passage of Senate Bill 583 (2023), which established Holodomor Remembrance Day.

More than 30 communities in Ukraine maintain a sister city or similar relationship with communities in the United States. In 2024, Ihor Taburets, the Governor of Cherkasy Oblast, met virtually with Oregon's Senate Interim Committee on Veterans, Emergency Management, Federal and World Affairs and requested a formalized sister state relationship between the State of Oregon and Cherkasy Oblast.

Oregon and the Cherkasy region of Ukraine share many mutual values, aspirations, and interests, including economic cooperation, education, arts and culture, agriculture, energy, governance, health, biotechnology,

This summary has not been adopted or officially endorsed by action of the committee.

humanitarian assistance, environmental sustainability, science, and technology.

PRELIMINARY