

Senate Concurrent Resolution 204

Sponsored by Senator WAGNER, Representative FAHEY, Senators SOLLMAN, NASH, SMITH DB, Representative BOICE; Senators GELSER BLOUIN, GORSEK, JAMA, LIEBER, MCLANE, PROZANSKI, TAYLOR, Representatives BUNCH, GAMBA, GOMBERG, HELM, LIVELY, MARSH, NELSON, OWENS, RIEKE SMITH, SCHARF (at the request of Association of Oregon Counties) (Presession filed.)

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

Digest: Honors the AOC on the 120th year since it was founded. (Flesch Readability Score: 72.6). Honors the Association of Oregon Counties on the 120th anniversary of its founding.

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Whereas Oregon's counties serve as the backbone of this state's democratic and governmental systems, administering all local, state and federal elections, maintaining the integrity of Oregon's property tax system, collecting and distributing property taxes on behalf of all local taxing districts, fostering access to justice by operating law libraries and partnering with the Oregon Judicial Department to house the Oregon circuit court system in county courthouses; and

Whereas Oregon's counties provide social safety net services for the most vulnerable Oregonians, safeguarding the health and wellbeing of Oregon communities through local public health programs, community mental health programs, Community Developmental Disabilities Programs, substance use and housing programs, workforce services and county Veteran Services Offices; and

Whereas Oregon communities are kept safe through a wide assortment of county public safety functions, including community corrections, emergency management services, sheriff's offices, jails, search and rescue services, marine patrols, juvenile services, criminal prosecution, emergency medical services, justice courts, 911 services, medical examiners and animal control services; and

Whereas Oregon's counties support critical public infrastructure and facilitate development to ensure the orderly and efficient growth of Oregon communities and the preservation of Oregon's deeply treasured natural resources through careful maintenance of the largest share of Oregon's transportation system, through permitting, enforcement and inspections for Oregon's county land use and building code programs and through effective management of solid waste programs and the federal Public Land Survey System in Oregon; and

Whereas in 1906, Oregon county governments formed the State Association of County Judges and Commissioners to support and represent Oregon's counties in legislative matters, which in 1936 evolved into the Association of Oregon Counties (AOC); and

Whereas the AOC is composed of the 36 counties in Oregon and their elected commissioners, judges, and chairs, and these elected officials from diverse geographies and varied political and ideological values work together to foster nonpartisan, consensus-based policies and build solutions-oriented partnerships with the state to guarantee effective service delivery to every Oregonian; and

Whereas for 120 years, the AOC has played a pivotal role in protecting, enhancing and em-

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 powering the ability of Oregon's counties to provide essential public services to every Oregonian
2 and effectively address the ever-evolving needs and priorities of Oregon communities through legis-
3 lative advocacy, professional development, promotion of best practices and fostering collaboration
4 among elected officials; and

5 Whereas in the first century of its steadfast advocacy, the AOC played a crucial role in the
6 development of countless initiatives that improved the resiliency and vitality of communities
7 throughout Oregon; and

8 Whereas in the 1930s, the AOC supported the passage of early federal "Payment in Lieu of
9 Taxes" legislation; and

10 Whereas in 1947, the AOC championed the first county planning law, and much later, the 1973
11 Land Conservation and Development Act, which made planning and development regulation manda-
12 tory; and

13 Whereas in the 1950s, the AOC advocated for a property appraisal program that reduced ineq-
14 uities in Oregon's property tax system; and

15 Whereas in 1961, the AOC sponsored legislation delegating to counties the power to convert to
16 the Board of County Commissioner system if the county judge no longer had any judicial functions;
17 and

18 Whereas also in 1961, the AOC worked to expand state shared revenues of net liquor receipts
19 with counties, and that initiative expanded to cigarette tax revenues in 1965 and lottery revenues
20 in 1991; and

21 Whereas from 1963 to 1966, the AOC secured double federal appropriations for National Forest
22 road construction; and

23 Whereas in 1964, the AOC generated Oregon's first county roads inventory and needs study; and

24 Whereas in 1976, the AOC's support was crucial to the passage of the National Forest Man-
25 agement Act; and

26 Whereas in 1987, the AOC created the Forest Trust Land Advisory Committee, composed of
27 forest trust land county commissioners who provided input on the management of Oregon forests to
28 the State Board of Forestry and the State Forester; and

29 Whereas in 1989, the AOC assisted with the creation of the County Assessment Function
30 Funding Assistance Account, which was a crucial service benefiting all local taxing districts and the
31 public; and

32 Whereas in 1990, the AOC created and maintained the Integrated Road Information System,
33 which played a critical role in county public asset management; and

34 Whereas in 2000, the AOC advocated in Congress for the passage of the Secure Rural Schools
35 and Community Self-Determination Act to stabilize revenue to counties that previously relied on
36 fluctuating timber revenues; and

37 Whereas in 2014, the AOC helped create the Regional Solutions Program, a resource for com-
38 munity and economic development that provides collaborative governance, regional coordination and
39 creative problem-solving to communities throughout Oregon; and

40 Whereas in 2024, the AOC partnered with state and local public safety agencies to form a new
41 deflection model for people suffering from substance use disorder; and

42 Whereas for the last two decades, the AOC has played a key role in passing state and federal
43 legislation to bolster intergovernmental partnership and deliver efficient and effective public ser-
44 vices to Oregonians, including major shared revenue-based state transportation packages that have
45 kept the traveling public moving and safe; now, therefore,

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

2 That we, the members of the Eighty-third Legislative Assembly, recognize, honor and celebrate
3 the contributions and value of the Association of Oregon Counties on the 120th anniversary of its
4 founding, and we encourage continued collaboration between the Legislative Assembly and our
5 county partners on behalf of our shared constituents, the residents of Oregon.

6 _____