

SCR 28 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Rules

Prepared By: Josh Nasbe, Counsel

Meeting Dates: 4/22

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Honors and celebrates the remarkable life and accomplishments of Dr. Donald F. Austin.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Dr. Donald F. Austin dedicated his life to public health in Oregon and across the globe, until he passed on October 21, 2018, surrounded by family members.

Dr. Donald F. Austin was born on November 1, 1937, in Forsyth, Montana to Dorothy and Harold Austin. Eventually the family moved to Sutherlin, Oregon, where Dr. Austin spent most of his childhood and went on to graduate from Sutherlin High School in 1955, as the president of his senior class. In 1962, he received his undergraduate degree from the University of Oregon and three years later he earned his Doctor of Medicine from the University of Oregon Medical School (now Oregon Health and Science University, OHSU). His passion for education was joined by his affection for scuba diving, songwriting, dancing, and poetry. He is survived by his wife, Susan Teller, his sons, Greg Austin, Cary Austin, and Jack Teller Austin, his grandsons, Jesse, Daniel, and Martin, and his sisters, Marjorie Jauron and Peggy Coffman.

Over Dr. Austin's illustrious career, he spent three decades in state and federal health agencies conducting disease-related surveillance, analysis, investigations, and research. His research included the effects of industrial air pollution on lung cancer risk and the effects of drinking alcohol and smoking on oral cancer. He helped design, operate, and teach the use of central cancer registries including statewide cancer reporting systems in Oregon, California, Kentucky, and Vermont, and worked to draft federal legislation to establish the National Program of Cancer Registries.

Dr. Donald F. Austin was not only a public health pioneer, he was also known as a "rock star" professor. He taught epidemiology courses on causation at both OHSU and UC Berkeley for more than 20 years and was a friend and mentor to countless individuals. In 2009, Dr. Austin received a Faculty Excellence in Teaching Award from the OHSU School of Medicine and even in his passing, he will continue to teach, as a donor to the OHSU Body Donation Program.

Senate Concurrent Resolution 28 honors and celebrates the remarkable life and accomplishments of Dr. Donald F. Austin.