

HJR 5 -1 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Rules

Prepared By: Josh Nasbe, Counsel

Meeting Dates: 4/29

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Proposes amendment to Oregon Constitution to eliminate gender-specific references in Article V, section 8a. Refers amendment to the people for their approval or rejection at the next regular general election.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-1 Eliminates gender-specific references throughout Article V.

BACKGROUND:

The Oregon Constitution was adopted in 1859 and included, in Article V, section 8, a provision describing the manner of succession to the Office of the Governor, in the event the Governor died, resigned or was otherwise unable to discharge the duties of the office. This provision was amended several times and, in 1972, was replaced with Article V, section 8a. Despite its relatively recent vintage, the succession provision, like several other existing provisions of the Constitution, includes gender-specific language that assumes the Governor is a man. House Joint Resolution 5 replaces these gender-specific references in Article V, section 8a, with gender-neutral references, and refers the proposed amendment to the voters for their approval or rejection at the next regular general election held throughout the state.