

HCR 204 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Rules

Prepared By: Melissa Leoni, LPRO Analyst

Meeting Dates: 2/11

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Commemorates the centennial of Oregon’s ratification of the Nineteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution and honors the efforts of those who led the woman suffrage campaign in Oregon.

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: No fiscal impact

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

On January 14, 1920, House Joint Resolution 1 (1920), the Oregon measure ratifying the Nineteenth Amendment, was filed with the Secretary of State making Oregon the 25th state to ratify.

Most Oregon women achieved voting rights on November 5, 1912, after a decades-long struggle on the part of diverse women and men across this state, including some women of color who braved systemic discrimination in order to participate. After achieving the vote in 1912, and before the ratification of the Nineteenth Amendment in 1920, many Oregon women engaged in the rights and obligations of voting citizenship, which provided a foundation for future civic engagement on the part of Oregon women after 1920. Oregon women also worked for the successful passage of the federal suffrage amendment through their membership in the National American Woman Suffrage Association and the National Woman’s Party.

On the first day of the 1920 legislative special session, Representative Sylvia Thompson (D-The Dalles), the third woman to serve in the Oregon legislature, and Senator Robert Farrell Sr. (R-Multnomah County) sponsored a resolution to ratify the Nineteenth Amendment. The members of the Oregon House of Representatives and Senate voted unanimously to ratify the Nineteenth Amendment, which reads: “The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex. Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.”

House Concurrent Resolution 204 commemorates the centennial of Oregon’s ratification of the Nineteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution and honors the efforts of the many great women and men who led the woman suffrage campaign in Oregon.