

## HB 2329 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

### House Committee On Rules

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**Prepared By:** Melissa Leoni, LPRO Analyst

**Meeting Dates:** 2/2

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#### **WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

Finds that a successor state song is needed and directs Secretary of State (SOS) to propose a public process for developing a successor to "Oregon, My Oregon." Requires public process to ensure: (1) broad participation from Oregonians of all backgrounds, races, and ethnicities; and, (2) access to resources to assess historical accuracy of proposed song lyrics. Establishes requirements for public comment period and finalizing the public process. Requires SOS to report to Legislative Assembly by September 15, 2022. Declares emergency; effective on passage.

#### **ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

##### **EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:**

No amendment.

##### **BACKGROUND:**

According to the Oregon Blue Book, the song, "Oregon, My Oregon," was adopted as the official Oregon state song in 1927. The music was written by Henry B. Murtagh and the words by John A. Buchanan. Buchanan was an Astoria city judge, amateur poet, and served two terms as a state representative in 1909 and 1911. Murtagh was a professional musician. Buchanan and Murtagh entered their composition in a contest sponsored by the Society of Oregon Composers in 1920. Their song won, was published, and was endorsed by the state superintendent of public instruction. The Legislative Assembly then made it the state song in 1927 with the following lyrics:

"Land of the Empire Builders, Land of the Golden West;  
Conquered and held by free men, Fairest and the best.  
On-ward and upward ever, Forward and on, and on;  
Hail to thee, Land of the Heroes, My Oregon.  
Land of the rose and sunshine, Land of the summer's breeze;  
Laden with health and vigor, Fresh from the western seas.  
Blest by the blood of martyrs, Land of the setting sun;  
Hail to thee, Land of Promise, My Oregon."

House Bill 2329 finds that a successor state song is needed and directs the Secretary of State (SOS) to create a public process as soon as practicable for developing a successor to "Oregon, My Oregon" that ensures broad participation from Oregonians of all backgrounds, races, and ethnicities and provides access to resources to assess the historical accuracy of proposed song lyrics.