

## HCR 11 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

### House Committee On Rules

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

**Meeting Dates:** 2/2, 3/11

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#### WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Modifies lyrics of state song "Oregon, My Oregon" to reflect historical traditions and the cultural, historical, economic, and societal evolution of the state. Replaces "Land of the Empire Builders, Land of the Golden West; Conquered and held by free men, Fairest and the Best" in the first verse with "Land of Majestic Mountains, Land of the Great Northwest; Forests and rolling rivers, Grandest and the best;" and replaces "Blest by the blood of martyrs" in the second verse with "Blessed by the love of freedom."

*FISCAL: No fiscal impact*

*REVENUE: No revenue impact*

#### ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Changing the lyrics versus setting up a process to develop a successor song
- Relationship of the lyrics to the past
- Spirit reflected in the new words
- "Health and vigor" reflecting the fresh air from the Pacific Ocean
- History of Oregon, My Oregon and state songs
- Establishing more than one state song

#### 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 Concurrent Resolution 11 proposes to modify "Oregon, My Oregon" with lyrics written by Oregonian Amy Donna Shapiro to be the following:

"Land of Majestic Mountains, Land of the Great Northwest;  
Forests and rolling rivers, Grandest and the best.

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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.  
Blessed by the love of freedom, Land of the setting sun;  
Hail to thee, Land of Promise, My Oregon."