

## **HB 2914 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**

### **House Committee On Rules**

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

**Meeting Dates:** 6/7

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

Designates April of each year as Arab-American Heritage Month.

#### **ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

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

No amendment.

#### **BACKGROUND:**

For more than a century, Arab-Americans have been making valuable contributions to virtually every aspect of American society, including science, medicine, law, business, education, technology, government, military service and culture. Victor George Atiyeh, who served as the 32nd Governor of the State of Oregon from 1979 to 1987, was the first Arab-American elected as a state governor in the United States.

Since migrating to the United States, persons of Arab descent have shared their rich culture and traditions with neighbors and friends, while also setting examples as model citizens and public servants. Arab-Americans brought with them to the United States their resilient family values, a strong work ethic, dedication to education, and diversity in faith and creed. Arab-Americans have enriched our society by sharing in the entrepreneurial American spirit that makes our nation free and prosperous.

The history of Arab-Americans in the United States remains neglected or defaced by misconceptions, bigotry, and anti-Arab hate in the form of crimes and speech. Issues currently affecting Arab-Americans, such as civil rights abuses, harmful stereotyping, and bullying must be combatted through education and awareness.

Arab-Americans join all Americans in the desire to see a peaceful and diverse society, where every individual is treated equally and feels safe.

House Bill 2914 designates April of each year as Arab-American Heritage Month.