

Enrolled
House Bill 2955

Sponsored by Representative RUIZ; Representatives DEXTER, GRAYBER, NGUYEN H, PHAM H, REYNOLDS, SOSA, Senator MANNING JR (Presession filed.)

CHAPTER

AN ACT

Relating to Bracero Program Day; and declaring an emergency.

Whereas between August 4, 1942, and December 31, 1964, thousands of Mexican nationals supported the economy of the State of Oregon and national wartime efforts through the Emergency Farm Labor Supply Program (the Bracero program); and

Whereas while providing immense contributions to this state and the nation, they faced violence, discrimination, unfair labor practices, contempt and humiliation; and

Whereas they lived in substandard and inhumane conditions and performed backbreaking work while being separated from their families; and

Whereas when the Bracero program ended, they were deported; and

Whereas their story and contributions have been left out of the history books and are not part of the current consciousness of most Oregonians; and

Whereas throughout the history of Oregon and the nation, the contributions and sacrifices of marginalized communities have been erased, minimized and forgotten; and

Whereas a state holiday commemorating the Bracero program honors the contributions of the Mexican nationals who participated in the program, and it also honors the contributions of all Latinx communities before and since the program, as well as the continued contributions of Latinx communities in this state; now, therefore,

Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:

SECTION 1. August 4 of each year is designated as Bracero Program Day.

SECTION 2. This 2023 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2023 Act takes effect on its passage.

Passed by House May 1, 2023

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Timothy G. Sekerak, Chief Clerk of House

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Dan Rayfield, Speaker of House

Passed by Senate June 21, 2023

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Rob Wagner, President of Senate

Received by Governor:

.....M,....., 2023

Approved:

.....M,....., 2023

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Tina Kotek, Governor

Filed in Office of Secretary of State:

.....M,....., 2023

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Secretary of State