

Enrolled
Senate Bill 583

Sponsored by Senator WAGNER; Senators MANNING JR, PATTERSON, THATCHER (Pre-session filed.)

CHAPTER

AN ACT

Relating to Holodomor Remembrance Day; and prescribing an effective date.

Whereas the Ukrainian famine-genocide of 1932-1933, known as Holodomor, was a man-made famine that caused the deaths of at least five million innocent men, women and children in Ukraine, resulting in the annihilation of an estimated 25 percent of the rural population of that country, at the time one of the most productive agricultural areas of the Soviet Union; and

Whereas the man-made famine also resulted in the deaths of an estimated one million to two million people in regions outside Ukraine, mostly in the largely ethnically Ukrainian North Caucasus territory; and

Whereas these people were starved to death by forced agricultural collectivization and grain seizures by the Soviet Union; and

Whereas Western observers and scholars who accurately reported on the existence of the famine as it was occurring were subjected to disparagement and criticism; and

Whereas the Soviet Union and many scholars in the West denied the existence of the famine until the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991 made access to Soviet Union archives, and thereby the documentation of the premeditated nature of the famine and its harsh enforcement, possible; and

Whereas the final report, delivered to Congress on April 22, 1988, of the United States Commission on the Ukraine Famine concluded that “Joseph Stalin and those around him committed genocide against Ukrainians in 1932-1933”; and

Whereas although the famine resulted in one of the largest losses of human life in the 20th century, its occurrence remains insufficiently known in the United States and throughout the world; and

Whereas whether it was political oppression or religious persecution that caused Ukrainian immigrants to pursue better lives for themselves and their families, their desire to live in peace and enjoy liberty was so strong that it drew generations of Ukrainian immigrants to Oregon and elsewhere in the United States in an effort to rebuild their lives; and

Whereas Oregon is now home to tens of thousands of Ukrainian-Americans, and Ukrainians living in Oregon have enriched our state through their leadership and contributions in agriculture, business, academia, government and the arts; and

Whereas since 2006, Ukraine has marked the fourth Saturday of November as an annual day of commemoration for the victims of the famine; and

Whereas in 2017, the Legislative Assembly unanimously adopted Senate Concurrent Resolution 3, designating the fourth Saturday of November 2017 as Holodomor Remembrance Day in the State of Oregon; and

Whereas on February 24, 2022, the Russian Federation launched an all-out invasion of Ukraine, killing tens of thousands of Ukrainians, kidnapping thousands of Ukrainian children and driving millions of Ukrainians from their homes to seek refuge in other countries (including in Oregon); and

Whereas the Russian invasion was preceded by declarations by Russian President Vladimir Putin and Russian state media denying that Ukraine is a true nation and denying the existence of the Ukrainian people; and

Whereas Russian invaders and occupiers destroyed and looted Ukrainian cultural and historical heritage sites, including Holocaust and Holodomor memorials to victims of Nazi and Soviet genocides; now, therefore,

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

SECTION 1. The fourth Saturday of November of each year is designated as Holodomor Remembrance Day.

SECTION 2. This 2023 Act takes effect on the 91st day after the date on which the 2023 regular session of the Eighty-second Legislative Assembly adjourns sine die.

Passed by Senate February 27, 2023

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Lori L. Brocker, Secretary of Senate

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Rob Wagner, President of Senate

Passed by House March 22, 2023

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Dan Rayfield, Speaker of House

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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Shemia Fagan, Secretary of State