

# Senate Bill 583

Sponsored by Senator WAGNER (Pre-session filed.)

## SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced**.

Designates fourth Saturday of November of each year as Holodomor Remembrance Day.  
Takes effect on 91st day following adjournment sine die.

## A BILL FOR AN ACT

1  
2 Relating to Holodomor Remembrance Day; and prescribing an effective date.

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

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

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

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

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

17       Whereas the final report, delivered to Congress on April 22, 1988, of the United States Com-  
18 mission on the Ukraine Famine concluded that "Joseph Stalin and those around him committed  
19 genocide against Ukrainians in 1932-1933"; and

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

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

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

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

**NOTE:** Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter [*italic and bracketed*] is existing law to be omitted.  
New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1       Whereas in 2017, the Legislative Assembly unanimously adopted Senate Concurrent Resolution  
2 3, designating the fourth Saturday of November 2017 as Holodomor Remembrance Day in the State  
3 of Oregon; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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