

SCR 206 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Rules

Prepared By: Leslie Porter, LPRO Analyst

Meeting Dates: 2/22

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure celebrates the life and accomplishments of Fred W. Heard (1940-2023) and recognizes and honors his contributions to the people of Oregon.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Fred W. Heard was born in Prineville, Oregon, on September 9, 1940. He was raised in Klamath Falls, Oregon, where he attended elementary school and high school. After high school, Fred Heard attended the University of Oregon, then received his Bachelor of Science in Education and his Master of Science in Secondary Education from Southern Oregon College (now Southern Oregon University) in Ashland, Oregon.

After college, Fred Heard began a long and fruitful career in education, first as a teacher at his alma mater, Klamath Union High School. In his time as an educator, he filled positions as diverse as teacher, department chair, budget manager, assistant professor, vice principal, and principal. As a teacher and assistant professor in junior high school, high school, and college, Fred Heard taught English, literature, social studies, speech, sociology, economics, and journalism.

In 1968, Fred Heard first ran for a seat in the Oregon Legislative Assembly, beginning another chapter of his life with a keen focus on service to the people of Oregon. For the next 14 years, Fred Heard served the people of Oregon faithfully, first as a member of the House of Representatives representing Klamath and Lake Counties from 1969 to 1972, then as a member of the Senate representing Klamath and Deschutes counties from 1972 to 1983.

Fred Heard held the post of Senate Majority Leader from 1975 to 1980 and was elected Senate President in 1981. As a member of the Legislative Assembly, he worked across party and regional lines to enact legislation that improved the lives of countless Oregonians. Fred Heard resigned his position in the Senate in 1983 to accept the cabinet appointment of Director of Commerce for Governor Victor Atiyeh, where he supervised nine divisions, 24 licensing boards, and 450 employees.

Fred Heard also embarked on a career in ministry, receiving a Master of Divinity from Church Divinity School of the Pacific in Berkeley, California. He completed his Clinical Pastoral Education at the Oregon State Hospital Forensics Unit and his field experience at Prince of Peace in Salem, Oregon. He served as interim minister at the Congregational Church in Klamath Falls from 1963 to 1966. He was ordained as a transitional deacon in June 2003 at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Salem, and as a priest at Grace Cathedral in San Francisco, California, in December 2003. He was the associate rector at Trinity Church in Menlo Park, California, from July 2003 to July 2008; rector at St. Paul's in Cambria, California, from January 2009 to September 2014; and was assisting priest at St. Paul's in Salem from September 2014 to December 2015.

In his time in the Episcopal Diocese of Oregon, Fred Heard was Dean of the Willamette Convocation, a member of the Diocesan Recovery Commission, a member of the Diocesan Council, and a member of the board for Formation

This summary has not been adopted or officially endorsed by action of the committee.

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and Mission. He began his service as vicar at St. Thomas' Episcopal Church in Dallas, Oregon, in January 2016, and retired in June 2022.

Over the years, Fred Heard was an active member of the Kiwanis and served as a board member in both Menlo Park and Salem, as president in Salem, and as a delegate to the international convention. In his spare time, Fred Heard loved to garden, and kept his eye on political happenings with his faithful cat, Apple.

As a political scientist, Fred Heard was fascinated by the evolution of politics over the last several years, but as a politician, he was saddened by the breakdown of decorum, tradition, compromise, and camaraderie. In his retirement, he was working on his autobiography, which included social, political, and religious commentary as well as reflections on his life and his family.

Fred Heard was known by some as Mr. Heard, Senator Heard, Father Heard, Dad, or Papa, and by all as a deeply dedicated servant to his fellow man. He was a mentor, a mediator, and a forward thinker who approached challenges with hope and an eye toward finding solutions. He was so very proud of his family, and he loved to tell of the accomplishments of his children and grandchildren.

Fred Heard passed away on August 1, 2023; and is survived by his loving wife of 57 years, Adair; his son, Frederick; his twin daughters, Robin and Heather; his Japanese exchange son, Hiro; and his grandchildren Christopher, Matthew, Carter, Jackson, Sawyer, Harrison, and Edith. He will always be remembered as a tireless advocate for his students, his constituents, his parishioners, and his family.