

## SCR 205 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

### Senate Committee On Rules

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**Prepared By:** Leslie Porter, LPRO Analyst

**Meeting Dates:** 2/27

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

The measure celebrates the life and accomplishments of Dick Springer (1948-2023) and recognizes and honors his contributions to the people of Oregon.

#### **ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

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

No amendment.

#### **BACKGROUND:**

Dick Springer was born in Portland, Oregon, on January 25, 1948, to Joshua “Sam” and Vera Springer. He first stepped into the world of politics when United States Senator Maurine Neuberger made him a Senate page as a high school sophomore in 1964, as the Senate debated what eventually became the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

Dick Springer graduated from Cleveland High School in Portland in 1966, earned a bachelor’s degree in politics from Princeton University in 1970, and was an officer in the Reserve Officer Training Corps. As a lieutenant in the United States Navy for four years, Dick Springer served on the aircraft carrier U.S.S. Coral Sea, stationed off the coast of Vietnam. After his discharge from the Navy, Dick Springer began law school at the University of Oregon in 1974 and earned his law degree in 1978.

Dick Springer was a deputy district attorney in Multnomah County before joining the law firm Pozzi Wilson Atchison in Portland, where he worked for 17 years. In 1980, he won the first of four terms in the Oregon House of Representatives from a Portland district, rising to the chair of the House Judiciary Committee. He also held a seat on the board of Portland Community College from 1985 to 1988.

In 1988, Dick Springer won the first of two terms in the Oregon Senate. In 1993, after the Democratic party lost four seats and lessened their majority from 20 to 16, he became Senate Majority Leader.

Dick Springer was a champion of the environment who served on the board of Friends of the Columbia Gorge and worked for the better part of a decade, until his retirement in 2015, on environmental issues as District Manager for the West Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District.

Dick Springer passed away on Sunday, April 9, 2023. He is survived by his companion of 20 years, Jan Coulton; his former wife, Diane Linn; two children, Josh and Tess; and two grandchildren, Madeline and Miles Springer.