

**SB 1531 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**

**Senate Committee On Veterans, Emergency Management, Federal and World Affairs**

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**Action Date:** 02/13/24

**Action:** Do pass and refer to Ways and Means by prior reference.

**Vote:** 5-0-0-0

**Yeas:** 5 - Gorsek, Linthicum, Manning Jr, Thatcher, Woods

**Fiscal:** Fiscal impact issued

**Revenue:** No revenue impact

**Prepared By:** Whitney Perez, LPRO Analyst

**Meeting Dates:** 2/8, 2/13

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

The measure creates the America 250 Oregon Commission (Commission) and specifies membership of the Commission. The measure also establishes that the Commission will coordinate and provide guidance for Oregon's official observance of the 250th anniversary of the establishment of the United States. The measure outlines procedures for the Commission and activities the Commission may engage in. The measure requires the Oregon Historical Society to provide staff support to the Commission and requires the Commission to report to the interim committees of the Legislative Assembly related to historical commemorations by September 15th of each year. Sunsets on January 2, 2028. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Coordination with historical societies around the state
- Oregon would become the 42nd state with a state semiquincentennial commission
- Plans to engage communities and schools

**EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:**

No amendment.

**BACKGROUND:**

The United States Semiquincentennial will be the 250th anniversary of the 1776 Declaration of Independence. The 250th anniversary will occur in 2026. There is a United States Semiquincentennial Commission with members appointed by Congress.

The Oregon Historical Society is a non-profit and Oregon maintains a state policy to contribute state aid for operation of the society. The Oregon Historical Society is required to advise the Department of Transportation on acquisition, development, and operation of historic places.

Senate Bill 1531 creates the America 250 Oregon Commission.