

## HCR 9 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

### House Committee On Rules

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**Prepared By:** Melissa Leoni, LPRO Analyst

**Meeting Dates:** 2/24

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#### WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure honors and celebrates the remarkable life and achievements of Secretary of State and former state Representative Dennis Michael Richardson, who lived from 1949-2019.

Fiscal impact: No fiscal impact

Revenue impact: No revenue impact

#### ISSUES DISCUSSED:

#### EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

#### BACKGROUND:

Secretary of State Dennis Michael Richardson was born in Los Angeles, California, on July 30, 1949. He served his country with honor and distinction as a helicopter pilot in the United States Army during the Vietnam War and was awarded the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry for his heroism in combat.

Dennis Richardson received a bachelor's degree and a law degree from Brigham Young University, and after law school, he set up a legal practice in Central Point, Oregon. In 1984, he was invited by President Ronald Reagan's administration to participate at the White House in a series of briefings for the President and his Cabinet. He served as Treasurer of the Oregon Republican Party from 1999 to 2003.

Dennis Richardson first served in public office as a member of the Central Point City Council. In 2002, he was elected to the Oregon House of Representatives as a Republican representing the people of the Fourth District. Dennis Richardson's tenure in the House of Representatives lasted six terms, and he served with distinction as Speaker Pro Tempore, Minority Whip, and Co-Chair of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means.

Dennis Richardson was unwavering in his fight for fiscally responsible, efficient, and ethical government. He was the Republican candidate for Governor in 2014 after winning his party's nomination with 65 percent of the vote, and he narrowly lost the general election.

Dennis Richardson was elected Secretary of State in 2016, becoming the first Republican to hold statewide office in Oregon since 2002, and the first Republican to be elected Secretary of State in Oregon since 1980. He was deeply committed as Secretary of State to serving all Oregonians, and he eschewed party politics to emphasize accountability, transparency, and integrity in state government. He embraced the Secretary of State's role as chief auditor, protecting Oregonians with tough investigations into fraud, wasteful spending, and poorly run programs.

Dennis Richardson passed away on February 26, 2019, surrounded by loved ones at his home in Central Point. He died while serving in office as Secretary of State, working tirelessly for the people of this state. He was survived by his beloved wife, Cathy, nine children, and many grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Dennis Richardson was a man of faith and deeply held values, and he was renowned for his dignity, compassion, and integrity. Every aspect of his personal and professional life was influenced by his motto, *pro tanto quid retribuamus*, which means "having been given much, what will you give in return?" Dennis Richardson was a brave and wise statesman, and he will forever be remembered for his decades of dedicated public service to the

State of Oregon.

PRELIMINARY