

HB 3768 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Rules

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Meeting Dates: 3/24, 3/31

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure designates March 21 of each year as Nowruz Day. The measure declares an emergency and is effective on passage.

Fiscal impact: No fiscal impact

Revenue impact: No revenue impact

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Meaning of Nowruz Day and designating March 21

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Nowruz, the Persian New Year, originated over 3,000 years ago in the Iranian religion of Zoroastrianism. It means “new day,” and marks the first day of spring, symbolizing renewal through the rebirth of nature, promoting peace and solidarity across communities, and celebrating all that has come before through rituals and shared meals. It is celebrated on the day of the astronomical vernal equinox, which usually occurs on March 21.

Nowruz is marked by the presentation of the Haft-seen table, a traditional arrangement of seven symbolic items with names starting with the letter “s,” including seer (garlic, symbolizing health), sabzeh (sprouts, symbolizing rebirth), seeb (apple, symbolizing beauty), serkeh (vinegar, symbolizing age), senjed (dried oleaster fruit, symbolizing love), saman (wheat paste, symbolizing sweetness of life), and somagh (sumac, symbolizing patience).

Nowruz is rooted in the traditions of the Iranian peoples, but it has spread to countries in the Caucasus, the Black Sea Basin, the Balkans, throughout Asia, and all across the world. It transcends borders and unifies peoples of diverse ethnicities, cultures, languages, and religions and it is celebrated by countless immigrants living in Oregon. In a time of continuing strife in Iran and throughout the world, Nowruz continues to spread its hallmark message of eternal optimism, rejuvenation, and new beginnings.

March 21 has been officially designated as International Nowruz Day by the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).