

SCR 6 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Rules

Prepared By: Melissa Leoni, LPRO Analyst

Meeting Dates: 5/7

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure recognizes and honors the South Eugene Robotics Team for its remarkable accomplishments in the field of robotics and its unyielding commitment to the greater good.

FISCAL: No fiscal impact

REVENUE: No revenue impact

Senate Vote: Ayes, 28; Excused, 2

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

The South Eugene High School's South Eugene Robotics Team (SERT) is an inclusive group of multi-disciplinary robotics enthusiasts that builds industrial-sized robots to compete in the international FIRST Robotics Competition. Fully trained SERT team members specialize in one of seven key areas, including competition strategy, computer-aided design (CAD), mechanical engineering, electrical engineering, software development, robot operation, and business development.

SERT's innovations in robotics have earned the group accolades, including the Ford-sponsored Autonomous Award in both 2019 and 2023, which is granted to robotics teams that demonstrate consistent and reliable performance during autonomous robot operation. In 2024, SERT ranked first in the FIRST Pacific Northwest District competition, and 67th in the FIRST World Championship competition, which had over 3,000 teams from around the world.

SERT has a long tradition of community service, raising awareness of and increasing access to robotics and other STEM programs for children, and taking a hands-on approach to solving real-world challenges. Through its Unified Robotics program, SERT guides neurodiverse students through the process of designing and building LEGO robots. Inspired by the national Go Baby Go initiative, SERT developed a method to retrofit toy ride-on trucks with joysticks to help young children with limited mobility learn how to operate and qualify for electric wheelchairs. SERT freely shares detailed instructions for the modifications via the SERT website.