

HB 3768 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Carrier: Sen. Jama

Senate Committee On Rules

Action Date: 05/21/25

Action: Do pass.

Vote: 3-1-1-0

Yeas: 3 - Golden, Jama, Manning Jr

Nays: 1 - Thatcher

Exc: 1 - Bonham

Fiscal: No fiscal impact

Revenue: No revenue impact

Prepared By: Leslie Porter, LPRO Analyst

Meeting Dates: 5/21

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

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

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Nowruz ceremonies in the Oregon House of Representatives
- The history of Nowruz, what it symbolizes, and the countries where it is celebrated
- Various Persian customs

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