

House Resolution 3

Sponsored by Representatives NELSON, ISADORE; Representatives ANDERSEN, CHAICHI, FRAGALA, GAMBA, HUDSON, LIVELY, MARSH, MCDONALD, MUNOZ, NERON, NOSSE, SANCHEZ, VALDERRAMA, WALTERS, WATANABE

SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced**. The statement includes a measure digest written in compliance with applicable readability standards.

Digest: Honors the history of Black drag in Oregon. (Flesch Readability Score: 61.2). Recognizes and honors the history of Black drag in Oregon.

HOUSE RESOLUTION

1
2 Whereas Oregon has a rich tradition of building, supporting and celebrating LGBTQ communi-
3 ties, and the Black drag community in Portland is among the most vibrant and storied in the entire
4 United States; and

5 Whereas Portland's Black drag community is deeply rooted in an illustrious history of fantasy,
6 and members of the community helped build the foundations of what would become known as the
7 International Court System by recognizing "Queens" of community-organized events as far back as
8 1958; and

9 Whereas in 1969, Rochelle was crowned the first Black Rose Queen, Rose Queen X, at the "Days
10 of Wine and Roses" Fall Ball; and

11 Whereas in 1970, Portland's Black drag community connected with the blossoming concept of
12 the Court with the formation of two parallel nonprofit organizations, the Portland Forum and the
13 Imperial Sovereign Rose Court (ISRC); and

14 Whereas prior to the election of the newly designated title of "Rose Empress," it was determined
15 that, to ensure that nothing be taken away from Portland's own unique experiences in drag history,
16 all past "Queens" would be assigned their appropriate chronological numbers, in sequence to the
17 "Rose Empress" designation; and

18 Whereas in 1971, Talani was crowned the Portland Forum's first Black Rose Empress, Rose
19 Empress XIII, and Lillian Carter was crowned Black Princess I; and

20 Whereas in 1973, Irvina, Lillian Carter, Leora and Desi presented a grand, first-in-the-nation
21 all-Black Queens entrance at the ISRC Coronation; and

22 Whereas in 1975, the United Ebony Kingdom (UEK) was formed, and Irvina was crowned Queen
23 I of the UEK that same year; and

24 Whereas 1975 also ushered in a new era as the last Sovereign Rose Empress gave her blessing
25 to, and relinquished a portion of her territory to, the newly formed Imperial Court of the Emerald
26 Empire (ISCEE) in Eugene; and

27 Whereas in 1976, ISRC elevated its first Black Monarch by public election, and upon his
28 crowning, Rose Emperor II Harold became the first Black Emperor in the International Court Sys-
29 tem; and

30 Whereas on October 16, 1977, with deepest admiration for those trailblazers that helped build

NOTE: Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter *[italic and bracketed]* is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 up the Black drag community in Oregon, Rose Empress XIX proclaimed “That each Empress shall
2 bear one number and one number only, and the number from the year of their reign shall never be
3 altered from what we, the people, have established in the past”; and

4 Whereas in 1978, territory would be adjusted again when ISRC granted sovereignty to the Im-
5 perial Sovereign Court of the Willamette Empire (ISCWE) in Salem; and

6 Whereas in 1980, Misty Waters was crowned ISRC’s first Black Trans Princess XI; and

7 Whereas in 1983, Rosey Waters was crowned ISRC’s first Black Rose Empress, Rose Empress
8 XXVI; and

9 Whereas in 1986, Lady Elaine Peacock was crowned ISRC’s Rose Empress XXIX; and

10 Whereas in 1988, Cicely was crowned ISRC’s Rose Empress XXXI; and

11 Whereas also in 1988, the Portland Forum and ISRC merged, and the organization operated from
12 that point forward as a newly unified ISRC; and

13 Whereas in 1993, Maria Peters Lake was crowned ISRC’s first Black Female Rose Empress, Rose
14 Empress XXXVI; and

15 Whereas in 1997, Diva Simone Slaughter was crowned ISCEE’s first Black Empress, Empress
16 XXIV; and

17 Whereas in 2001, Poison Waters, who is renowned for her advocacy work on behalf of BIPOC
18 and LGBTQ communities in and around Portland, was crowned ISRC’s Rose Empress XLIV; and

19 Whereas in 2008, Krystal Lynn Benoit was crowned ISRC’s first Black Trans Rose Empress,
20 Rose Empress L; and

21 Whereas in 2009, Karess Ann Slaughter was crowned ISCEE’s Empress XXXVI; and

22 Whereas in 2020, Poison Waters began teaching a “Histories of Drag Performance in Portland”
23 class at Portland Community College, with a prominent segment dedicated to the history of Black
24 drag in Oregon; and

25 Whereas 2022 saw ISRC’s first all-Black reign, when Arcadian Campbell Starr was crowned Rose
26 Emperor XLV and T’Kara Campbell Starr was crowned Rose Empress LXIII; and

27 Whereas in 2023, Alexis Campbell Starr was crowned ISRC’s Rose Empress LXIV; and

28 Whereas in 2024, Devlin Lynn Phoénixx was crowned ISRC’s Rose Empress LXV; and

29 Whereas also in 2024, Rose Empress XLIV Poison Waters was named Queen Mother II of All
30 Oregon, a lifelong title which was vacated by Queen Mother I of All Oregon Rose Empress XV
31 Darcelle upon his death in 2023; and

32 Whereas Poison Waters is believed to be the first and only Black Queen Mother of a state
33 within the International Court System; and

34 Whereas many of the founding title holders in Oregon remain actively involved in the Court
35 system as highly respected members of the ISRC College of Monarchs; and

36 Whereas there have been decades of all-Black productions for various community charity or-
37 ganizations in Portland, including Peacock in the Park (1987-2004), Peacock After Dark (2008-2013),
38 Hot Chocolate (2010-2024), Race Talks: History of Black Drag in Portland (2022-2024) and Elite
39 Blackspereience PDX (2025); and

40 Whereas countless Black drag entertainers have made their mark in this state, and while many
41 have sadly passed away, Oregon has benefited tremendously from the indelible contributions these
42 pioneering performers have made to the Black drag scene in this state and across the country; now,
43 therefore,

44 **Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of Oregon:**

45 That we, the members of the House of Representatives of the Eighty-third Legislative Assembly,

1 recognize and honor Oregon's rich history of Black drag, and we congratulate all those whose
2 spirited contributions have made Oregon's Black drag community one of the most vibrant and vital
3 in the nation.

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