

HB 2995 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Emergency Management, General Government, and Veterans

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Sub-Referral To: Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Meeting Dates: 2/25, 3/27

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure creates the Task Force on Reparations.

Detailed Summary

- Describes composition and appointment process for task force members.
- Requires the task force to study and develop proposals for financial and nonfinancial reparations for Oregonians of African American descent.
- Requires the development on an interim report for public review; describes report requirements, including identify governmental actions that have resulted in harm to Oregonians of African American descent.
- Allows the task force to make recommendations on other considerations for eliminating racial bias in employment practices; identify ways to eliminate discrimination polices; and make recommendations for reparations with services for medical trauma, judicial discrimination, environmental discrimination, and trauma.
- Describes quorum, voting, appointment, and meeting process; allows the task force to adopt rules.
- Requires the task force to submit a report to the Legislature no later than September 15, 2026.
- Requires the Legislative Policy and Research Office provide staff support.
- Defines members of the Legislative Assembly assigned to the task force as nonvoting members.
- Does not allow for compensation or reimbursement to task force members.
- Repeals the act on January 31, 2026.
- Takes effect on the 91st day following adjournment sine die.

Fiscal impact: Fiscal impact

Revenue impact: No revenue impact

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Discussion of the history of exclusionary laws in Oregon
- Personal stories about exclusionary and discriminatory treatment
- Discussion about current harms regarding culturally competent health care in Oregon
- Questions about who would define a person who would benefit from reparations, and who would be responsible for fiscal reparations

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

The term "reparations" refers to making amends for a wrong that one has done, by paying money or providing help to those who have been wronged. The California Reparations Taskforce was created by California Assembly Bill 3121 (2020) to study and develop reparation proposals for African Americans. The cities of Detroit, Boston, Philadelphia, Chicago, and San Francisco have also established advisory groups or task forces to study and make recommendations on reparations for African Americans.