

Senate Concurrent Resolution 18

Sponsored by Senator GIROD

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**.

Designates osprey as official state bird.

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1
2 Whereas in 1987 Oregon cast off a motto that Oregonians felt no longer best represented the
3 state, reclaiming its earlier motto "She Flies With Her Own Wings"; and

4 Whereas today another state symbol has become out of step with contemporary Oregon; and

5 Whereas the western meadowlark was proclaimed the state bird by Governor I. L. Patterson in
6 1927, but the Legislative Assembly never formally adopted the western meadowlark as the official
7 state bird of Oregon; and

8 Whereas as a state known for its independent character, Oregon deserves a unique and dynamic
9 choice for state bird; and

10 Whereas the western meadowlark is an unoriginal choice in that it is also the state bird of
11 Kansas, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota and Wyoming; and

12 Whereas once commonly seen when Oregon was predominantly a rural state, the western
13 meadowlark is now relatively rare in the areas where the greatest number of Oregonians live; and

14 Whereas many, if not most, Oregonians have never seen a live example of their own state bird;
15 and

16 Whereas familiar to all, the osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*) can be seen in every region of this state
17 during a portion of each year and is an impressive and intriguing bird that better represents the
18 Oregon spirit; and

19 Whereas the osprey is resilient, and its numbers in this state are on the rise, in contrast to the
20 western meadowlark, whose population has been in continual decline for decades; and

21 Whereas unlike the hard-to-spot western meadowlark that spends much of its life camouflaged
22 by grasses, the osprey, with its five-foot wingspan and distinctive shape and markings, can be fre-
23 quently sighted in the sky above almost any body of water with fish enough to sustain it; and

24 Whereas while it would be a rare occurrence for most Oregonians to glimpse a western
25 meadowlark while going about their daily lives, the easily recognizable osprey is a familiar sight to
26 the residents of this state and can be discerned from a great distance, whether it is soaring free,
27 perching high atop its unmistakable 250-pound nest or plummeting to the water's surface in the
28 talons-and-beak-first dive for which it alone is known; and

29 Whereas Oregon flies with her own wings, and those wings are best represented by the osprey;
30 now, therefore,

31 **Be It Resolved by the Legislative Assembly of the State of Oregon:**

32 That we, the members of the Seventy-ninth Legislative Assembly, designate the osprey (*Pandion*

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 *haliaetus*) as the official state bird of Oregon.

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