

House Joint Resolution 3

Sponsored by Representative BROWN

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 Metasequoia as official state fossil.

JOINT RESOLUTION

1
2 Whereas the State of Oregon has a state flag, a state animal (the beaver), a state flower (the
3 Oregon grape), a state bird (the western meadowlark), a state seal, a state tree (the Douglas fir), a
4 state fish (the Chinook salmon), a state gemstone (the sunstone) and a state rock (the thunderegg);
5 and

6 Whereas the State of Oregon is the only state in the western half of the continental United
7 States without an official state fossil and remains one of only 16 states without such designation;
8 and

9 Whereas a number of organizations and residents representing all areas of Oregon have been
10 engaged in a long-term economic, research and educational effort to draw attention to Oregon's
11 paleontologic and geologic resources, and designation of an official state fossil will demonstrate
12 support and a visual image for that effort; and

13 Whereas the Metasequoia, or dawn redwood, is easily identified, is among the most abundantly
14 found fossils in Oregon today and is widely distributed in the fossil record of western North Amer-
15 ica; and

16 Whereas the Metasequoia represents Oregon's ancient past as it flourished in the Miocene
17 epoch of 25 to 5 million years ago and left its record embedded in rocks across the Oregon landscape
18 despite volcanic explosions, deep lava flows and earthquakes; and

19 Whereas although the Metasequoia became extinct in Oregon five million years ago,
20 paleontologists discovered living 100-foot Metasequoia trees in a remote area of China over 50 years
21 ago and brought specimens back to the United States for propagation, thus ensuring that live
22 Metasequoia trees can be found today; now, therefore,

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

24 That the Metasequoia, the symbol of paleontologic and geologic interest that best represents
25 Oregon's ancient past, is the official fossil of the State of Oregon.

26

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.