

House Bill 2914

Sponsored by Representative WILLIAMS (Presession filed.)

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 April of each year as Arab-American Heritage Month.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1 Relating to Arab-American Heritage Month.

2
3 Whereas for more than a century, Arab-Americans have been making valuable contributions to
4 virtually every aspect of American society, including science, medicine, law, business, education,
5 technology, government, military service and culture; and

6 Whereas Victor George Atiyeh, who served as the 32nd Governor of the State of Oregon from
7 1979 to 1987, was the first Arab-American elected as a state governor in the United States; and

8 Whereas since migrating to the United States, persons of Arab descent have shared their rich
9 culture and traditions with neighbors and friends, while also setting examples as model citizens and
10 public servants; and

11 Whereas Arab-Americans brought with them to the United States their resilient family values,
12 a strong work ethic, dedication to education and diversity in faith and creed that have added
13 strength to our great democracy; and

14 Whereas Arab-Americans have enriched our society by sharing in the entrepreneurial American
15 spirit that makes our nation free and prosperous; and

16 Whereas the history of Arab-Americans in the United States remains neglected or defaced by
17 misconceptions, bigotry and anti-Arab hate in the form of crimes and speech; and

18 Whereas issues currently affecting Arab-Americans, such as civil rights abuses, harmful stere-
19 otyping and bullying, must be combatted through education and awareness; and

20 Whereas Arab-Americans join all Americans in the desire to see a peaceful and diverse society,
21 where every individual is treated equally and feels safe; and

22 Whereas the contributions and heritage of Arab-Americans have helped us build a better nation;
23 now, therefore,

24 **Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:**

25 **SECTION 1. April of each year is designated as Arab-American Heritage Month.**

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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.