

# Senate Concurrent Resolution 205

Sponsored by Senators COURTNEY, RILEY, FREDERICK; Representatives HELM, MCLAIN, PILUSO, SCHOUTEN, SMITH DB (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**.

Commemorates 50th anniversary of Portland Trail Blazers.

## CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1  
2       Whereas on February 6, 1970, the National Basketball Association (NBA) board of governors  
3 granted Harry Glickman the rights to a franchise in Portland, Oregon; and

4       Whereas the new management group held a contest to allow fans to vote for the team name, and  
5 "Trail Blazers" was eventually selected by the judging panel; and

6       Whereas the Portland Trail Blazers played their first NBA game on October 16, 1970, defeating  
7 another expansion team, the Cleveland Cavaliers, by a score of 115-112; and

8       Whereas the Blazers played their first home game in Portland's Memorial Coliseum, which was  
9 to remain their home for the next quarter century before giving way to the Rose Garden, now known  
10 as the Moda Center, the current home of the Blazers; and

11       Whereas the Blazers finished their first season with a record of 29-53, but a proud and historic  
12 franchise was born and it won the hearts of a city and state; and

13       Whereas the 1970-1971 team featured a rookie star in Geoff Petrie, who scored 24.8 points per  
14 game, and the roster also included a young guard named Rick Adelman, who would later become a  
15 successful coach for the Blazers; and

16       Whereas the announcer for the Blazers in their first season, and for nearly three decades, was  
17 the legendary Bill Schonely, who in 2012 received the Curt Gowdy Media Award from the Naismith  
18 Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame; and

19       Whereas during a 1970 game against the Los Angeles Lakers, an excited Schonely exclaimed a  
20 phrase that has ever since been synonymous with both the Blazers and the City of Portland: "Rip  
21 City!"; and

22       Whereas the early years of the franchise were lean ones in terms of wins and losses, but in 1974  
23 the Blazers drafted All-American center Bill Walton from UCLA, creating hope that the team's for-  
24 tunes were about to change for the better; and

25       Whereas following the 1975-1976 season, the Blazers hired Jack Ramsay, a veteran coach with  
26 a fondness for plaid attire, to lead the team, and they also made some key player personnel trans-  
27 actions, forming the nucleus of a very promising team; and

28       Whereas the 1976-1977 Blazers had the franchise's first winning record, 49-33, and for the first  
29 time the Blazers earned a spot in the NBA playoffs; and

30       Whereas the Blazers steamrolled their way through the Western Conference playoffs, succes-  
31 sively winning series against the Chicago Bulls, the Denver Nuggets and the Los Angeles Lakers

**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 to earn a spot in the NBA Finals against the Philadelphia 76ers; and

2 Whereas the Blazers and the 76ers played a thrilling series that caused many fans to fall under  
3 the spell of a condition that came to be known as “Blazermania”; and

4 Whereas on June 5, 1977, the Blazers won game six of the series at home in Portland, winning  
5 the series and earning the franchise its only NBA Championship; and

6 Whereas every member of the 1977 championship team will always have a place in the hearts  
7 of Blazers’ fans: starters Bill Walton, Bob Gross, Lionel Hollins, Dave Twardzik and Maurice Lucas,  
8 and reserves Larry Steele, Lloyd Neal, Corky Calhoun, Herm Gilliam, Robin Jones, Johnny Davis  
9 and Wally Walker; and

10 Whereas the Blazers also advanced to the NBA Finals in 1990 and 1992, losing to the Detroit  
11 Pistons and Chicago Bulls, respectively, but earning the admiration of basketball fans around the  
12 nation for their skill, teamwork and determination; and

13 Whereas the Blazers have qualified for the NBA playoffs numerous times, including an amazing  
14 streak of 21 consecutive appearances from 1983-2003, one of the longest streaks in NBA history; and

15 Whereas Bill Walton won NBA Most Valuable Player honors and four Blazers have won NBA  
16 Rookie of the Year honors: Geoff Petrie, Sidney Wicks, Brandon Roy and Damian Lillard; and

17 Whereas six players for the Blazers have been inducted into the Naismith Hall of Fame: Bill  
18 Walton, Lenny Wilkens, Clyde Drexler, Drazen Petrovic, Arvydas Sabonis and Scottie Pippen; and

19 Whereas three head coaches of the Blazers are also in the Naismith Hall of Fame: Jack Ramsay,  
20 Lenny Wilkens and Maurice Cheek (inducted as a player); and

21 Whereas businessman and philanthropist Paul Allen purchased the team in 1988, and he was the  
22 gracious and committed leader of his beloved Blazers for three decades prior to his death on Octo-  
23 ber 15, 2018; and

24 Whereas the popularity of the team has been reflected in its record-setting attendance, including  
25 a streak of 814 consecutive home games sold out from 1977-1995, one of the longest such streaks in  
26 all of American professional sports; and

27 Whereas the Trail Blazers Foundation is dedicated to positively impacting the lives of children  
28 and families who have been historically underserved, and the foundation has given millions of dol-  
29 lars in grants to schools, nonprofit organizations and youth; and

30 Whereas over the years, players, coaches and employees of the Blazers have been active vol-  
31 unteers, donating their time and leadership skills to countless causes and organizations and working  
32 tirelessly to improve our community; and

33 Whereas the Portland Trail Blazers have over the past half century become a vital part of our  
34 civic framework, helping to make Portlanders and Oregonians proud of the city and state they call  
35 home; now, therefore,

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

37 That we, the members of the Eightieth Legislative Assembly, commemorate the 50th anniversary  
38 of the Portland Trail Blazers and congratulate the entire organization on its many achievements  
39 both on and off the court over the past 50 years, and we extend our best wishes to the Trail Blazers  
40 for continued success in the future. Rip City!

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