

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: No fiscal impact

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<b>Action:</b>	Do Pass as Amended and Be Printed Engrossed
<b>Vote:</b>	Senate 5 - 0 - 0 House 5 - 0 - 0
<b>Yeas:</b>	Cowan, Krieger, Nelson, Schaufler, Boone, George G., George L., Johnson, Morrisette, Verger
<b>Nays:</b>	0
<b>Exc.:</b>	0
<b>Prepared By:</b>	Jim Keller, Administrator
<b>Meeting Dates:</b>	2/6, 2/13, 2/27

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:** Allows the Governor by proclamation, upon the request of the Secretary of State, to extend the deadline for returning ballots in the event of a civil disorder, state of emergency, natural disaster, or other catastrophic event. Limits the extension of the deadline to no more than 14 calendar days after the election. Directs the Governor to set a deadline for returning ballots. Declares an emergency, effective on passage.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Need for a legal framework to address a potential emergency
- Flooding in Tillamook in November 2006 and the impact on collecting ballots
- Impact on voter's access to return ballots
- Safety of election workers
- Areas that a Governor's proclamation would cover
- Definition of an emergency

**EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:** Reduces the deadline from 14 days to 7 days, uses the definition of an "emergency" currently established in statute, and prohibits reporting the tally report from any vote tally machine until the date and time set by the Governor by which ballots must be returned in the election.

**BACKGROUND:** Under current statutes, the elector is required to mail in or deliver their ballot to ensure it is received by the County Clerk's office by Election Day.

House Bill 2080, as amended, would permit the Governor to issue a proclamation declaring an emergency, as defined in statute, which would allow ballots to be received no more than 7 days after the date of the election and prohibit county clerks in the state to order a tally report from any vote tally machine in the election until the date and time is set by the Governor by which all ballots must be returned in the election.