

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: No fiscal impact

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Action: Do Pass  
Vote: 5 - 0 - 0  
Yeas: Beyer, Kruse, Prozanski, Walker, Burdick  
Nays: 0  
Exc.: 0  
Prepared By: Matt Kalmanson, Counsel  
Meeting Dates: 2/7

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:** Establishes that information about a voter's disability that is entered into official voter registration records by an election official is exempt from disclosure under Oregon's public record laws.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Voting officials' practices in meeting needs of persons with disabilities
- Potential for chilling effect on voting if fact of disability is subject to disclosure
- The federal Help America Vote Act
- Voters' ability to self-disclose disability if they so desire
- Ability of interested persons to gather information about voters without need for information about disabilities

**EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:** No amendment.

**BACKGROUND:** ORS 247.973 provides that an individual's signature submitted for the purpose of registering to vote is subject to inspection as a public record. However, identifying information that is "submitted by an individual" pursuant to the federal Help America Vote Act, which contains provisions designed to increase access to voting for persons with disabilities, is not subject to Oregon's public records law. SB 79 clarifies that identifying information relating to a disability "that is entered into official voter registration records by an elections official" is not subject to disclosure as well.