

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Minimal fiscal impact, no statement issued

Action: Do Pass

Vote: 8 - 0 - 1

Yeas: Clem, Dallum, Greenlick, Komp, Lim, Roblan, Whisnant, Buckley

Nays: 0

Exc.: Krummel

Prepared By: Derrick Olsen, Administrator

Meeting Dates: 5/21

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Directs community colleges and state institutions of higher education to adopt plans to encourage students to register to vote and to vote in elections. Requires that students receive information about activities related to voting that are prohibited by law and penalties for those activities. Declares emergency, effective July 1, 2007.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Challenge of registering students to vote
- Need to increase the number of students voting
- Out-of-state students choosing to register to vote in home state
- Election drop box locations on campuses of community colleges/colleges/universities
- Importance of nonpartisanship when community colleges/colleges/universities facilitate voter registration

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

BACKGROUND: In a September 2006 Fact Sheet, the Center for Information and Research on Civic Learning and Engagement (CIRCLE) reported that the general trend in national voter turnout among young people during midterm elections was down between 1982 and 2002, while Oregon's youth voter turnout rate in midterm election years has been declining since 1982, except in 1994 and 2002. However, Oregon's youth voter turnout rate has been higher than the national average youth voter turnout rate since 1978.

The Senate Rules Committee gave SB 951-A a Do Pass as Amended recommendation with a 4-0-1 vote, and it passed the Senate 18-8-4.