74th OREGON LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY - 2007 Regular Session STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

MEASURE: SJR 4 D CARRIER: Rep. Thatcher

MINORITY REPORT

House Committee on Elections, Ethics and Rules

REVENUE: No revenue impact **FISCAL:** Fiscal statement issued

Action: Be Adopted Amended and Be Printed Engrossed

Signers on the Report: Representatives Esquivel and Thatcher

Prepared By: Jim Stembridge, Administrator

Meeting Dates: 6/20

WHAT THE BILL DOES: Upon approval by the people at the November, 2008 general election, amends the Oregon Constitution to require elections officials to verify the United States citizenship of first-time voter registrants.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Merits of the original measure and proposed amendment
- Implementation legislation: SB 3 (2007) and HB 2640 (2007)
- Methodology of assessing taxes on tobacco
- Minority report considered in the Senate to require elections officials to verify the United States citizenship of first-time voter registrants

EFFECT OF MINORITY AMENDMENT: Replaces the measure.

BACKGROUND: Currently, persons registering to vote in Oregon must be United States citizens, residents of Oregon, and at least 18 years of age by election day. Completed registration cards must be postmarked by the 21st day before an election for registrants to vote in that election. A voter registration form is available on-line, can be completed on-line and printed (or printed and filled out by hand), signed, and mailed or delivered to the county elections office. The county elections office mails a return card verifying that the registration was received.

The Oregon Secretary of State Election Division reports 13 complaints involving non-U.S. citizens voting in Oregon since 1991, with two resulting in prosecution, ten closed based on circumstances in each case, and one still pending resolution. SJR 4-D would constitutionally mandate that Oregon election officials verify the United States citizenship of first-time voter registrants.