

**2008 Special Session**  
**FISCAL ANALYSIS OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION**  
**Prepared by the Oregon Legislative Fiscal Office**

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**MEASURE NUMBER:** SB 1083                      **STATUS:** A Engrossed  
**SUBJECT:** Establishes certain response times for the Oregon Supreme Court, Attorney General and Secretary of State and makes certain changes to signature verification on petitions.  
**GOVERNMENT UNIT AFFECTED:** Oregon Judicial Department, Secretary of State, and Department of Justice  
**PREPARED BY:** Tim Walker  
**REVIEWED BY:** Robin LaMonte, Daron Hill and Doug Wilson  
**DATE:** February 15, 2008.

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	<u>2007-2009</u>	<u>2009-2011</u>
<b>EXPENDITURES:</b>		
<b>Secretary of State General Fund</b>		
Personal Services	\$263,936	\$278,390
Services and Supplies	\$64,444	\$42,212
	<hr/> \$328,380	<hr/> \$320,602
 <b>POSITIONS / FTE:</b>		
	3.0/1.875	3.0/3.0

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** On passage.

**INTERIM JOINT COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS:** The budgetary impact of this bill was not reviewed by the Interim Joint Committee on Ways and Means Committee and is not included in the omnibus budget bill to be introduced by the committee.

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT MANDATE:** This bill does not affect local governments' service levels or shared revenues sufficient to trigger Section 15, Article XI of the Oregon Constitution.

**ANALYSIS:** This bill requires the Oregon Supreme Court to certify or refer a ballot title to the Attorney General within 45 days of receipt; requires the Secretary of State (SOS) to verify initiative or referendum signatures; establishes requirements for signature verification; establishes grounds on which a ballot may be challenged and allows the SOS to use the United States Postal Service to verify and update addresses.

Under current law, county elections offices are responsible for verifying signatures on state initiative, referendum and recall petitions. SOS anticipates verifying 13 initiative petitions each biennium. This number is based upon the average number of petitions received in 2000, 2002, 2004 and 2006. Based on past history, roughly 3,400 signatures per petition would have to be verified. SOS anticipates having to hire and train 12 temporary staff and 3 permanent staff for the increased workload. In addition, SOS would require dedicated space suitable for public observers. SOS also estimates an additional 2 positions will need to be hired to meet the timelines requirements for investigating complaints.

The Oregon Judicial Department anticipates that the statutorily required 45 day timeline for responses to ballot title cases can be handled within current resources, but other cases may be decided later than they

are under current practice. There will be no measurable effect on the Department of Justice. This bill currently has a subsequent referral to the Joint Committee on Ways and Means.