

**REVENUE:** No revenue impact

**FISCAL:** Fiscal statement issued

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<b>Action:</b>	Do Pass as Amended, Be Printed Engrossed, and Rescind the Subsequent Referral to the Committee on Ways and Means
<b>Vote:</b>	2 - 1 - 0
<b>Yeas:</b>	Monnes Anderson, Brown
<b>Nays:</b>	Ferrioli
<b>Exc.:</b>	0
<b>Prepared By:</b>	Marjorie Taylor, Administrator
<b>Meeting Dates:</b>	2/5

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:** Directs that partisan-office candidates be listed once for each nomination received by the candidate on general election ballots. Allows candidates to decline to be listed as nominee of a specific political party. Directs that multiple votes for the same candidate on a single ballot be counted as a single vote for that candidate.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Effort to build coalitions between parties
- “Spoiler” candidates in elections
- Possible fiscal impact of the measure
- Complexity of the “fusion” ballot
- Voter confusion and related education
- Ways to increase voter participation

**EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:** Establishes that a candidate’s name may appear on the ballot without a political party only if the candidate is nonaffiliated.

**BACKGROUND:** Allowing more than one party to nominate the same candidate is called “fusion” voting. Under fusion voting, voters may vote their party-preference as well as voting for candidates. Votes from different parties are then combined for that candidate's total number of votes. Under Oregon's current election laws, candidates are nominated by their own party in primary elections. The primary election winners then face off in a general election. Proponents of fusion voting assert that allowing minor parties to nominate the same candidate as a major party would force candidates to build coalitions around issues. A similar measure, House Bill 3040, was heard during the 2007 legislative session.