

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Minimal fiscal impact, no statement issued

Action:	Do Pass with Amendments to the A-Eng. Bill (Printed B-Eng.)
Vote:	4 - 1 - 0
Yeas:	Burdick, Ferrioli, Metsger, Devlin
Nays:	Atkinson
Exc.:	-
Prepared By:	Erin Seiler, Administrator
Meeting Dates:	5/15

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Makes technical changes to statutes governing conduct of elections. Prohibits county clerk from registering person who alters information on registration card regarding citizenship or signature statement. Establishes process for notifying persons voting whose ballot is challenged, of nature of challenge and opportunity to verify registration. Clarifies procedures and time requirements for random hand-counts. Adds recall elections to state's contest-of-elections statutes. Establishes procedures for filling mid-term vacancies in certain state offices. Changes term of office for Commissioner of the Bureau of Labor and Industries (BOLI) elected in November 2012 from four years to two years. Declares emergency; effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Provisions of the measure
- Changing term of office for the BOLI Commissioner for one election cycle

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: Changes "issues a replacement ballot" to "reissue ballot" in statute for consistency with definition in vote-by-mail manual.

BACKGROUND: During the interim, the Oregon Secretary of State prepared a bill to make technical and substantive updates and corrections to existing statutory provisions regarding elections. The statutory changes included in House Bill 2095-A are primarily related to three areas of elections statute: (a) modification of post-election hand-count provisions when there is a mandatory countywide recount; (b) clarifications related to mid-term vacancies in certain state-wide elected offices; and (c) addition of recall elections to the state's contest-of-election statutes.

Currently, the law requires the Secretary of State to notify counties about the contests and precincts to be counted by hand within one day after the general election. The scope of the hand count depends on the margin of victory between the two candidates receiving the largest number of votes in the county. County election officials may not know who has received the largest number of votes in an electoral contest election the day after the election because ballots are still being processed and counted. House Bill 2095-A would increase this time to three business days. Statutes regarding how to fill mid-term vacancies in certain state-wide offices lack procedural clarity. House Bill 2095-A adds a provision setting forth procedures for filling such vacancies by appointment or election. For the purpose of restoring the historical alternating cycle of statewide offices up for election at each General Election, the measure adds a provision specifying that the term of office for the Commissioner of BOLI elected at the General Election in November 2012 "shall be two years."