

**REVENUE: No revenue impact**

**FISCAL: Fiscal statement issued**

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<b>Action:</b>	Do Pass as Amended and Be Printed Engrossed and Rescind the Subsequent Referral to the Committee on Ways and Means
<b>Vote:</b>	7 - 0 - 1
<b>Yeas:</b>	Berger, Edwards C., Garrard, Gelser, Jenson, Read, Roblan
<b>Nays:</b>	0
<b>Exc.:</b>	Nolan
<b>Prepared By:</b>	Jerry Watson, Administrator
<b>Meeting Dates:</b>	1/28, 2/25, 3/9

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:** Directs Secretary of State to adopt electronic voter registration system. Allows qualified person to complete and deliver voter registration card electronically. Requires Department of Transportation to provide Secretary of State with a digital copy of driver license or state identification card signature of each person who completes a registration card using the electronic voter registration system. Makes conforming changes to ORS 247.012.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Increased opportunity for people with disabilities to vote
- Impact on voter turnout of youth, underrepresented communities, and general public
- Security of online voter registration
- Reliability of online databases used to screen voter registration
- Fiscal impact
- Possible rescission of subsequent referral to Ways and Means
- Ease of voting

**EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:** Requires Department of Transportation to provide Secretary of State with a digital copy of driver license or state identification card signature of each person who registers online. Changes operative date from January 1, 2011 to January 1, 2010 and makes conforming changes.

**BACKGROUND:** Traditionally, persons interested in registering to vote complete a voter registration card by hand and return it to the proper government office. Proponents of online electronic voter registration generally assert that electronic voter registration provides a more streamlined, accessible and secure voter registration process. Proponents further assert that the measure, if adopted, would increase voter registration and voting, particularly for youth, persons with disabilities, and underrepresented communities. During hearing, concern was expressed about possible difficulty in obtaining DMV records necessary for verification of registrants' signatures. HB 2386-A requires the Department of Transportation to provide a digital copy of a registrant's signature to the Secretary of State, rather than requiring the Secretary of State to obtain that information from the Department of Transportation.

Two states have implemented online electronic voter registration systems: Arizona in 2002 and Washington in 2008. In 2008, California passed legislation (Senate Bill 381) allowing electronic registration. Implementation of the California system will take effect once that state's new voter registration database is up and running.

3/16/2009 2:44:00 PM

*This summary has not been adopted or officially endorsed by action of the committee.*