

Joint Committee on Ways and Means

Carrier – House: Rep. J. Smith  
Carrier – Senate: Sen. Johnson

Revenue: No revenue impact

Fiscal: Fiscal statement issued

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Action: Do Pass the B-Engrossed Measure

Vote: 15 – 4 – 3

House

Yeas: Buckley, D. Edwards, Garrard, Gilman, Jenson, Kotek, Nathanson, Shields

Nays: Richardson, G. Smith

Exc: Galizio, Komp

Senate

Yeas: Bates, Carter, Johnson, Monroe, Verger, Walker, Winters

Nays: Girod, Whitsett

Exc: Nelson

Prepared By: Erica Kleiner, Legislative Fiscal Office

Meeting Date: June 12, 2009

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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 Oregon Department of Transportation to provide Secretary of State with a digital copy of driver license, driver permit or state identification card signature of each person who completes a registration card using the electronic voter registration system. System becomes operative March 1, 2010. Declares emergency; effective upon passage. Adds Oregon driver permit to list of valid identification for signature verification. Changes operative date for electronic voter registration system to March 1, 2010.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Fiscal impact of the measure

**EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:** No amendment.

**BACKGROUND:** In Oregon, a qualified person can register to vote in 3 ways: by mailing a completed registration card to any county clerk, the Secretary of State, any office of the Oregon Department Transportation (ODOT) or any designated voter registration agency, personally delivering the card to an official designated by a county clerk, or completing the voter registration portion of the application for issuance or renewal of a driver license, issuance of a state identification card or a change of address at an ODOT office. Efforts to improve voter participation target primarily underrepresented voting demographics such as students, minorities, and person with disabilities. Initiatives implemented by the state and federal government focus on minimizing and removing costs of participation, streamline registration procedures, and increasing education. For example the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 introduced the Motor Voter Act which requires voter registration services through department of motor vehicles offices, disability centers, schools, libraries, and mail-in registration. Similarly, in 2007, the Oregon Legislature passed Senate Bill 951, directing community colleges and state institutions of higher education to adopt plans to encourage students to register to vote and to vote in elections and passed House Bill 2940-B to allow 17 year-olds to register to vote at any time as long as they are 18 at the time of the election. 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.