

**REVENUE: No revenue impact**

**FISCAL: Minimal fiscal impact, no statement issued**

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**Action:** Do Pass as Amended, Be Printed Engrossed, and Rescind the Subsequent Referral to the Committee on Ways and Means

**Vote:** 8 - 0 - 0

**Yeas:** Berger, Edwards C., Garrard, Gelser, Jenson, Nolan, Read, Roblan

**Nays:** 0

**Exc.:** 0

**Prepared By:** Jerry Watson, Administrator

**Meeting Dates:** 2/25, 4/15, 5/4, 5/8

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:** Allows ballots from long-term absent electors to be cast using a facsimile machine. Establishes procedures for casting ballots by facsimile. Directs Secretary of State to adopt rules to administer the provisions of the measure and to ensure the secrecy of ballots cast using facsimile machine to greatest extent possible. Sets procedures for verifying elector signatures transmitted by facsimile. Amends ORS 246.021, which prohibits filing ballots by facsimile, by eliminating conflict by adding exception to prohibition for long-term absentee electors. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Difficulties for long-term absentee electors to cast ballots under existing law
- Existing voting procedures for absentee ballots
- Security and verifiability of electronic voting
- Existing requirement for paper recounts

**EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:** Replaces original measure.

**BACKGROUND:** Proponents of electronic voting for long-term absent electors assert that there is a need to make it easier for such electors to participate in U.S. elections. Opponents assert that electronic voting is not secure.