

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Minimal fiscal impact, no statement issued

Action: Do Pass the A-Engrossed Measure

Vote: 3 - 0 - 2

Yeas: Ferrioli, Metsger, Devlin

Nays: -

Exc.: Atkinson, Burdick

Prepared By: Erin Seiler, Administrator

Meeting Dates: 6/1

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Allows certain long-term absent electors to use facsimile machine to cast ballot. Requires elector who uses facsimile machine to waive right to secret ballot. Establishes signature verification procedures. Declares emergency; effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Difficulties overseas military personnel have casting ballots
- Safeguards to prevent election fraud
- Voter registration procedures and requirements

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

BACKGROUND: A "long-term absent elector," as defined by ORS 253.500 to 253.640, is a resident of Oregon absent from the place of residence (1) serving in the Armed Forces of the United States or who has been discharged from the Armed Forces of the United States for not more than 30 days; (2) serving in the Merchant Marine of the United States or who has been discharged from the Merchant Marine of the United States for not more than 30 days; or (3) temporarily living outside the territorial limits of the United States and the District of Columbia.

All electors are required to file their ballot with the Secretary of State, county clerk or other filing officer not later than 5 p.m. of the day the election. Long-term absentee voters are often military personnel often stationed overseas, abroad military vessels, or deployed in regions that lack timely or regular postal service. These circumstances prevent military personnel from ensuring receipt of their ballot by the appropriate filing officer.

House Bill 2511-A will allow deployed military personnel to cast a ballot with a county clerk using a fax machine by establishing an exception for electronic voting for long-term absentee voters.