

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: No fiscal impact

Action:	Do Pass the A-Engrossed Measure
Vote:	4 - 1 - 0
Yeas:	Atkinson, Burdick, Metsger, Devlin
Nays:	Ferrioli
Exc.:	-
Prepared By:	Erin Seiler, Administrator
Meeting Dates:	6/4

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Directs Secretary of State to designate organizations to establish citizen panels to review and create statements on specified number of initiated state measures. Specifies process for reviewing statements. Directs Secretary of State to print statements in voters' pamphlet. Sunsets January 2, 2011. Declares emergency; effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Experience with pilot review program in 2008
- Increasing voter's knowledge and electoral participation
- Diversity of participants in review process
- Current mechanism for publishing Voters' Pamphlet statements
- Fiscal impact

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

BACKGROUND: In September 2008, the first Citizen Initiative Review (CIR) was conducted as a pilot project focusing on Ballot Measure 58. The purpose of the pilot was to provide both the public and the legislature with the opportunity to evaluate the process, and to continue the discussion about enacting the CIR into state law as an ongoing feature of the state's ballot initiative process. The CIR is based on the Citizens Jury method developed by the Jefferson Center, a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization based in Minnesota.

The process involved a panel of twenty-three registered voters from across the state, chosen using a stratified random sampling procedure to ensure that the resulting panel is a fair representation of Oregon's voting population in terms of age, gender, race, educational attainment, place of residence and political affiliation. Over a period of five days, panelists heard from initiative proponents, opponents, and background witnesses. With the assistance of trained moderators, the panelists debated whether they supported or opposed the initiative, along with their specific reasons. The panel then developed a Citizens' Statement containing their conclusions about the ballot measure and the in Statement provides voters with an analysis of the ballot measure, crafted by a panel of their peers and made available to voters.

House Bill 2895-A creates a CIR pilot project to evaluate ballot measures approved for November 2010. Facilitated through a public/private partnership, the CIR pilot would produce statements that would be placed in the voters' pamphlet.