

**REVENUE: No revenue impact**

**FISCAL: No fiscal impact**

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**Action:** Do Pass as Amended and Be Printed Engrossed

**Vote:** 5 - 0 - 3

**Yeas:** Berger, Edwards C., Nolan, Read, Roblan

**Nays:** 0

**Exc.:** Garrard, Gelser, Jenson

**Prepared By:** Jerry Watson, Administrator

**Meeting Dates:** 3/27, 3/30, 4/22, 5/6

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:** Requires Attorney General to provide identical draft ballot titles for state measures if Attorney General determines that subject, purpose and major effect of two or more state measures are substantially similar. Eliminates current requirement in ORS 250.035 that ballot titles not resemble any title previously filed for a measure to be submitted at that election.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Elimination of current requirement for non-identical titles
- Whether ballot title shopping is a problem or not
- Cost of ballot title shopping to taxpayers
- Impact of previous initiative process changes on ballot title shopping
- Integrity of initiative process
- Circumstances in which requirement to provide identical titles applies

**EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:** Clarifies that obligation to provide identical titles applies only to two or more state initiative measures submitted at the same election.

**BACKGROUND:** ORS 250.035(6) currently provides that “[t]o avoid confusion, a ballot title shall not resemble any title previously filed for a measure to be submitted at the election.” On occasion, initiative petition sponsors submit more than one substantially similar measure for title drafting. Proponents assert that sponsors are then able to select from among different titles drafted by the Attorney General. Opponents assert that House Bill 2941-A is unnecessary due to previous changes in Oregon’s initiative laws that reduced the number of prospective petitions that were submitted for ballot title preparation in 2008.