

**2009 Regular Legislative Session**  
**FISCAL ANALYSIS OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION**  
**Prepared by the Oregon Legislative Fiscal Office**

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**MEASURE NUMBER:** HB 3237

**STATUS:** A-Engrossed

**SUBJECT:** Adding statement to ballot titles and envelopes; creating, combining or dividing precincts; and exempting persons from liability for a violation committed by a person obtaining signatures

**GOVERNMENT UNIT AFFECTED:** Counties, Secretary of State

**PREPARED BY:** Erica Kleiner

**REVIEWED BY:** Daron Hill

**DATE:** June 5, 2009

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	<u>2009-2011</u>	<u>2011-2013</u>
<b>EXPENDITURES:</b> See comments		

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** On passage

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT MANDATE:** This bill does not affect local governments' service levels or shared revenues sufficient to trigger Section 15, Article XI of the Oregon Constitution.

**ANALYSIS:** House Bill 3237 requires that a statement be added to the ballot title for a measure that authorizes the renewal of current local tax options and one of three statements be printed on the front of the envelope that includes the ballot title. The statement must be included for measures that will be submitted at elections held on or after the passage of this bill. The bill also directs county clerks, on and after January 1, 2012, to create, combine or divide one or more precincts to ensure that: (a) each precinct is part of the same congressional and legislative districts, (b) each precinct is contiguous, (c) the number of electors included in a precinct does not exceed 5,000, and (d) if the number of electors in a precinct exceeds 5,000, the precinct must be divided into two equal precincts. The bill also specifies that a chief petitioner may not be held criminally liable for a violation committed by a person obtaining signatures on their behalf and a contractor may not be held criminally liable based on a violation committed by a subcontractor.

There is a fiscal impact to counties. Oregon's County Clerks estimate that the statewide cost to order additional envelopes that reflect the newly printed statements as required in the bill would be approximately \$83,000 annually. This estimate assumes that a total of approximately 2.3 million additional envelopes will be ordered at a cost of 3.5 cents per envelope. The total cost would be spread among Oregon's 36 counties. Counties report that there would be minimal costs incurred as a result of storing the additional envelopes. Storage costs for counties that would have to pay for additional storage for the envelopes would be limited to about \$200 annually.

Oregon's County Clerks report an indeterminate fiscal impact would result from the addition of several newly developed precincts. Counties anticipate that due to the changes in the bill they would be required to devote an increases amount of staff time to reassigning precinct boundaries, transferring all indentified addresses/voters to a newly assigned precinct, and notifying party chairs of precinct changes. Counties also anticipate that they would incur costs associated with sending a voter notification card to all involved voters outlining their newly assigned precinct information. The staff time required by this bill would vary by county and would depend on the amount of changes to precincts within each county.

There is no fiscal impact to the Secretary of State.