

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

MEASURE NUMBER: HJR 13

STATUS: A-Engrossed

SUBJECT: Revising Constitution to exempt local taxing districts from certain limitations on bonded indebtedness. Referring to the next primary election.

GOVERNMENT UNIT AFFECTED: Oregon Secretary of State

PREPARED BY: Erica Kleiner

REVIEWED BY: Daron Hill

DATE: May 18, 2009

	<u>2009-2011</u>	<u>2011-2013</u>
EXPENDITURES:		
Elections Division		
Voters' Pamphlet – General Fund	\$44,289	\$0
REVENUES:		
Elections Division – General Fund	\$5,500	\$0

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: This measure would refer for voter approval a Constitutional revision to exempt local taxing districts from certain limitations on bonded indebtedness if it is incurred to finance capital costs. It allows the state to loan credit and incur indebtedness in the form of general obligation bonds to provide funds to school districts to finance capital costs. The measure creates the school capital matching fund and deletes provisions relating to the school matching subaccount in the education stability fund. The referral would be on the ballot at the statewide primary election.

The fiscal impact to the Secretary of State's office is the state's portion of incremental costs incurred for an already-funded election. The mechanism for funding the voters' pamphlet in the election cycle has not yet been determined.

There were seven legislative referrals on the 2008 primary and general election ballots; estimates of the number of pages that would be used are based these. Costs of the 65-page (average) 2008 primary voters' pamphlet (\$400,053), was used for estimating 2009-11 costs. Each referral is assumed to result in seven additional pages in the voters' pamphlet, for a General Fund total of \$44,289. The revenue estimate assumes eleven arguments pro and con would be filed relating to the referral, at \$500 per argument.

Because the total number of initiatives and legislative referrals affecting the election cycle will not be known until the respective deadlines of the primary and general elections, the cumulative impact, including this measure, cannot be determined. The Legislative Fiscal Office (LFO) assumes that the Secretary will seek a General Fund appropriation from the Emergency Board or Legislative Assembly when the actual voters' pamphlet costs are known.

Under procedures established in ORS 250.125 and 250.127, a financial impact committee is created for each state measure submitted to the ballot through the initiative and referendum processes. For this

reason, LFO does not include an estimate of the fiscal impact that would result if HJR 13 were to be adopted by a vote of the people.