

A-Engrossed House Bill 2511

Ordered by the House May 19
Including House Amendments dated May 19

Sponsored by Representatives WHISNANT, BARKER, Senators DEVLIN, BOQUIST; Representatives CAMERON, ESQUIVEL, GILMAN, KRIEGER, THATCHER

SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure.

[Directs Secretary of State to adopt electronic voting system to allow certain long term absent electors to cast ballots electronically.]

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.

Declares emergency, effective on passage.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1
2 Relating to electronic voting system; creating new provisions; amending ORS 246.021; and declaring
3 an emergency.

4 **Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:**

5 **SECTION 1. Section 2 of this 2009 Act is added to and made a part of ORS chapter 253.**

6 **SECTION 2. (1) A long term absent elector described in ORS 253.510 (1) or (2) may cast**
7 **a ballot using a facsimile machine as provided in this section. Notwithstanding ORS 254.470**
8 **(8), a ballot cast under this section shall be counted only if the ballot:**

9 (a) **Is received in the office of the county clerk not later than 8 p.m. on the day of the**
10 **election;**

11 (b) **Is accompanied by a return identification envelope containing the signature of the**
12 **elector and a signed waiver described in subsection (2) of this section; and**

13 (c) **The signature is verified as provided in subsection (3) of this section.**

14 (2) **Each elector who casts a ballot under this section shall complete and submit using a**
15 **facsimile machine a waiver described in this subsection. The elector shall attest to the in-**
16 **formation supplied on the waiver by signing the completed waiver. The Secretary of State**
17 **by rule shall design the form of the waiver, which shall include all of the following:**

18 (a) **Space for the elector to provide the elector's full name, residence or mailing address,**
19 **a phone or facsimile number where the elector may be contacted and any other necessary**
20 **information.**

21 (b) **A waiver in substantially the following form:**

22 _____
23
24 **I, _____, acknowledge that by casting my voted ballot using a facsimile machine**
25 **I have waived my right to a secret ballot.**
26 _____

NOTE: Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter *[italic and bracketed]* is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1
2 (c) A statement to notify the elector that the elector's ballot will not be counted unless
3 the elector has complied with the provisions of this section.

4 (d) Space for the elector to provide the elector's signature to attest to the information
5 supplied.

6 (3) The county clerk shall verify the signature of each elector on the return identification
7 envelope transmitted by facsimile machine under this section with the signature on the
8 elector's registration card, according to the procedure provided by rules adopted by the
9 Secretary of State.

10 (4) The Secretary of State shall adopt rules to administer this section and to ensure the
11 secrecy of ballots cast using a facsimile machine to the greatest extent possible.

12 **SECTION 3.** ORS 246.021, as amended by section 2, chapter 41, Oregon Laws 2008, is amended
13 to read:

14 246.021. (1) Except as provided in ORS 247.012 and subsection (2) of this section, an election
15 document and an accompanying payment of fees required to be filed with the Secretary of State,
16 county clerk or other filing officer must be delivered to and actually received at the office of the
17 designated officer not later than 5 p.m. of the day the document or fee is due or, if the day due is
18 a Saturday, Sunday or holiday, on the next business day.

19 (2) If, at 5 p.m. of the day an election document is due, an individual is physically present in the
20 office of the secretary, county clerk or other filing officer and in line waiting to deliver the docu-
21 ment, the individual is considered to have begun the act of delivering the document and is permitted
22 to file it.

23 (3) **Except as provided in section 2 of this 2009 Act,** any election document required to be
24 filed with the filing officer other than ballots, voter registration cards or petitions requiring signa-
25 tures of electors may also be filed by means of an electronic facsimile transmission machine. If an
26 election document is required to be filed by a specified time, the entire document must be received
27 in the office of the filing officer not later than 5 p.m. of the day the document is due or, if the day
28 due is a Saturday, Sunday or holiday, on the next business day.

29 (4) Notwithstanding any provision of subsections (1) to (3) of this section, if a statement is re-
30 quired to be filed electronically under ORS 260.057:

31 (a) The statement must be received electronically at the office of the Secretary of State not later
32 than 11:59 p.m. of the day the statement is due or, if the day due is a Saturday, Sunday or holiday,
33 on the next business day; and

34 (b) The Secretary of State may not accept the filing of the statement in any form other than an
35 electronic format.

36 (5) As used in this section, "election document" includes, but is not limited to, a declaration of
37 candidacy for nomination for public or political party office, completed nominating petitions, state-
38 ments and portraits for voters' pamphlets, statements of election campaign contributions and
39 expenditures, and initiative, referendum or recall petitions.

40 **SECTION 4. The Secretary of State or the county clerk may take any action before**
41 **January 1, 2010, that is necessary to enable the secretary or clerk to exercise, on and after**
42 **January 1, 2010, all the duties, functions and powers conferred on the secretary or the clerk**
43 **by section 2 of this 2009 Act and the amendments to ORS 246.021 by section 3 of this 2009**
44 **Act.**

45 **SECTION 5. Section 2 of this 2009 Act and the amendments to ORS 246.021 by section 3**

1 of this 2009 Act become operative on January 1, 2010.

2 **SECTION 6. This 2009 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public**
3 **peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2009 Act takes effect**
4 **on its passage.**

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