

FISCAL IMPACT OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION

Measure: HB 2912 - A

Seventy-Sixth Oregon Legislative Assembly – 2011 Regular Session
Legislative Fiscal Office

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Measure Description:

Requires automatic full recount of votes cast for nomination or election of candidate to nonpartisan office at nominating election when candidate receives close to majority of votes cast for office.

Government Unit(s) Affected:

Counties, Secretary of State

Summary of Fiscal Impact:

Indeterminate

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:

The measure creates an additional provision to Oregon statute that, in regard to nominating election to a nonpartisan office, would require a recount of votes when the number of votes for any candidate does not differ from the majority of votes cast in the election by more than one-fifth of one percent.

If the Secretary of State (SOS) is the filing officer, the SOS would be required to order the recount and reimburse the counties for the cost. For any other nonpartisan election where a county clerk is conducting the election, with the exception of certain positions, the county clerk would be required to order and pay the cost of the recount.

Although the Legislative Fiscal Office believes that the added condition whereby a recount is required by either the county clerk or the Secretary of State may have a fiscal impact, the number of recounts and whether they would be statewide or only limited to individual counties is unknown. Therefore the fiscal impact is indeterminate.

As an example of potential costs, the Secretary of State noted that in the 2008 primary election, the SOS directed county elections official to conduct a full recount for statewide measure #53. The SOS reimbursed counties \$113,248 for the cost to conduct the recount.

