

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: No fiscal impact

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| Action: | Do Pass as Amended and Be Printed Engrossed |
| Vote: | 8 - 0 - 0 |
| Yeas: | Barnhart, Berger, Freeman, Garrett, Holvey, Wingard, Hunt, Olson |
| Nays: | - |
| Exc.: | - |
| Prepared By: | Jim Stembridge, Administrator |
| Meeting Dates: | 2/14, 5/26, 6/1 |

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Authorizes complaints regarding alleged violations of election law to be filed electronically. Deletes requirement that unused ballots be destroyed after an election. Requires that explicit procedures for securing unused ballots be included in county election security plan. Limits signature-gathering period to two years for petition to initiate district measures, deleting the notice requirements for signature-gathering that exceeds one year. Specifies notice and filing requirements for district elections, and places responsibility on district election authorities. Clarifies language governing the nomination and election for nonpartisan offices. Authorizes County Clerks to publish notices of election and ballot titles electronically. Repeals provisions for election to determine whether dogs may run at large. Makes other technical changes to Oregon election law.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Clarification of nominees nominated at nomination election
- Destruction of un-used ballots, location of un-used ballots, and use of un-used ballots as replacements for non-machine-readable ballots
- Home rule county procedures
- Conditions in county clerks' offices during close of election, ballot-counting, and re-counts
- Undeliverable ballots returned to the clerk's office, and potential for fraud with lots of ballots around
- Signatures and lack-of-signatures on sealed ballot boxes
- Explanation of technical changes in amendment
- Dogs running at large

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: Clarifies language governing the nomination and election for nonpartisan offices; requires that explicit procedures for securing unused ballots be included in county election security plan; authorizes County Clerks to publish notices of election and ballot titles electronically; repeals provisions for election to determine whether dogs may run at large. Makes other technical changes to Oregon election law. Deletes provisions moving county judge candidacy filing to county clerks.

BACKGROUND: House Bill 2256-A is an "omnibus" bill filed by the Secretary of State containing numerous changes to elections law. Current law contains an apparent contradiction directing counties to, immediately after 8 p.m. on election day, provide for the security of, and account for, unused ballots and also to destroy all unused ballots. House Bill 2256-A deletes the requirement that the ballots be destroyed, requiring, instead, that explicit procedures for securing unused ballots be included in county election security plan subject to review and approval by the Secretary of State. In some counties, unused ballots are used as substitutes for cast ballots that, for one reason or another, cannot be machine-processed.

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This summary has not been adopted or officially endorsed by action of the committee.