

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: No fiscal impact

---

<b>Action:</b>	Do Pass as Amended and Be Printed Engrossed and Rescind the Subsequent Referral to the Committee on Ways and Means
<b>Vote:</b>	8 - 0 - 0
<b>Yeas:</b>	Barnhart, Berger, Freeman, Garrett, Holvey, Wingard, Hunt, Olson
<b>Nays:</b>	-
<b>Exc.:</b>	-
<b>Prepared By:</b>	Jim Stembridge, Administrator
<b>Meeting Dates:</b>	2/11, 3/28, 4/4

---

**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:** Allows long term absent voters to cast ballots by electronic mail if they include the return identification envelope and a waiver of right to secret ballot. Makes provisions operative January 1, 2012. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Lack of security for e-mailed ballots
- Number of ballots e-mailed to voters in recent elections
- Numbers of ballots filed by facsimile
- Obstacles to filing ballots by facsimile
- Long-term absentee electors (LTAEs) include military, military families, and citizens living abroad
- Possibility of limiting provisions to members of the military and merchant marine
- Legal restraints of the federal Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (UOCAVA)
- Specific procedures that would be used for electronic voting, including methods of scanning e-mail attachments
- Possibility of interim study on how LTAE voting by might be accomplished

**EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:** Replaces the measure.

**BACKGROUND:** Registered voters are termed “electors” throughout statute. Long term absent electors, as defined in ORS 253.510, including those who serve in the armed forces and merchant marine, are eligible for special absentee ballots, which are mailed to absentee electors prior to the date ballots are mailed to other electors. Under HB 2511-A (2009), electors who serve in the armed forces and merchant marine became eligible to cast ballots by facsimile, waiving their right to a secret ballot. The provisions of HB 2511-A were extended to all long term absentee voters by SB 998 (2010). HB 3074-A extends the provisions farther, to the use of electronic mail with scanned attachments. Access to facsimile machines is said to be a problem, but scanning equipment is said to be available in many locations.