

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: No fiscal impact

Action:	Do Pass the A-Engrossed Measure
Vote:	5 - 0 - 0
Yeas:	Atkinson, Beyer, Burdick, Ferrioli, Rosenbaum
Nays:	0
Exc.:	0
Prepared By:	Erin Seiler, Administrator
Meeting Dates:	5/5, 5/19

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Authorizes voting by electronic mail for long term absent electors if they include return identification envelope and waiver of right to secret ballot. Makes provisions operative January 1, 2012. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Obstacles to voting for deployed military personnel
- Limited access to facsimile machines
- Process for delivering and returning ballots by long term absent electors
- Security of e-mail transmission process for returning ballots
- Number of ballots returned by facsimile
- Oregon’s compliance with federal MOVE Act

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

BACKGROUND: A “long-term absent elector,” as defined by ORS 253.510, is a resident of Oregon absent from the place of residence (1) serving in the Armed Forces of the United States or who has been discharged from the Armed Forces of the United States for not more than 30 days; (2) serving in the Merchant Marine of the United States or who has been discharged from the Merchant Marine of the United States for not more than 30 days; or (3) temporarily living outside the territorial limits of the United States and the District of Columbia.

In 2009, the Legislative Assembly adopted House Bill 2511, permitting electors who serve in the armed forces and merchant marine to cast ballots by facsimile, waiving their right to a secret ballot. These provisions were extended to all long-term absentee voters in Senate Bill 998 (2010). However, the ability to access facsimile machines by those serving in the armed forces is limited, but scanning equipment is more readily accessible to military personal.

House Bill 3074-A extends the provisions to the use of electronic mail with scanned attachments.