REVENUE: No revenue impact
FISCAL: No fiscal impact

Action:	Do Pass as Amended and Be Printed Engrossed
Vote:	4 - 1 - 0
Yeas:	Beyer, Burdick, Ferrioli, Rosenbaum
Nays:	Atkinson
Exc.:	0
Prepared By:	Erin Seiler, Administrator
Meeting Dates:	2/24

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Modifies requirements of county elections security plans to include number and location of any video cameras located where ballots may be tallied. Requires county clerk, at time clerk proclaims results of election, to submit to Secretary of State record of number of ballots: printed, mailed, issued at office of county clerk, returned undeliverable, rejected ballot envelopes, tallied ballots, ballots used for duplication, test and archived ballots. Requires county clerk, at end of voting on Election Day, to mark each duplicate ballot and mark or seal, secure and account for unused ballots. Requires county clerk, as soon as practicable after election, to destroy unused ballots. Repeals and modifies statutes governing absentee ballots. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:
- Statutory conflict regarding handling of ballots on Election Day
- Security of voted ballots and unvoted ballots
- Number of ballots printed by county for election
- Transparency and accountability throughout elections process
- Outdated statutes related to absentee ballots
- Importance of election integrity and voter confidence in elections
- 2011 legislation and workgroup developed to address issue
- Proposed amendments

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: Replaces original measure.

BACKGROUND: There are several statutes in current election law that govern polling place elections, but those statutes are in conflict with updated laws governing Oregon's Vote-by-Mail voting system. These conflicting statutes challenge the ability of county elections officials to administer elections and undermine voter confidence in the accuracy and security of vote-by-mail.

ORS Chapter 253 deals with, among other items, absentee ballots. This chapter has some election statutes that are no longer applicable because all ballots are mailed and any voter can request their ballot be mailed to a different address for any election. Senate Bill 1517-A deletes outdated statutes relating to absentee ballots and maintains statutes necessary for the conduct of vote-by-mail elections.

ORS 254.483 presents a direct conflict for county officials. The statute requires any unused ballots be destroyed at 8:00 PM on Election Day and also requires county officials to secure and account for unused ballots on the same day and time. County elections need to have unused ballots available throughout the tallying and certification process to duplicate damaged ballots and otherwise process the election.

Senate Bill 1517-A requires an accounting of all ballots be reported to the Secretary of State once the county clerk certifies the election. The measure requires any ballot used for duplication purposes be marked as a duplicate ballot, and requires that each unused ballot be marked as such or be sealed, secured and accounted for by county clerk.

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