

ATTENTION: Joint Ways & Means Committee Chair and Members
FROM: Ruth Bendl and Fran Sinnema
RE: HB 3521A to be heard at Hearing 8.30 a.m. 6.3.13

Please oppose passage of the above referred bill for the following reasons:

1. Too much is unknown about the ability of agencies other than election offices, to fulfill the obligations set out in the above referred bill, both in a timely fashion and at a minimal cost.
2. Agencies other than election offices, have to put their agencies' priorities first, which means that requirements for ascertaining a potential voter registrant's eligibility qualifications could both add extra costs to an agency, timewise, as well as being delayed due to pressure from other duties.
3. There are added costs involved because registration applications have to be forwarded to both the Secretary of State and to the relevant County Clerk, after which the applicant's party affiliation has to be sought, and finally a Voter Notification Card issued and mailed to the applicant.
4. Ascertaining the costs of all of the above referred requirements, requires at the very least, some kind of trial effort, so any kind of State of Emergency for implementation of HB 3521A, is extremely premature.
5. There have already and recently, been some costly procedural bumbles by Multnomah County's election office:
 - a) Sending 444 Voter Notification cards to incorrect addresses, thereby putting the intended recipients at risk for I.D. Theft;
 - b) In 2012 1000 voters in Multnomah County received ballots for incorrect districts, again incurring additional costs, and undoubtedly voting ability problems
 - c) Since election offices have already demonstrated that they won't comply with lawful mandates (such as ORS 254.483) that they deem inconvenient, can the public really have confidence in the integrity of the implementation of HB 3521A, by all concerned in this proposal?
6. Finally, if the election offices' staffs can't keep up with the weekly address change data they receive from post offices, due to lack of time and funding, which also results in the return of thousands of undeliverable ballots; nor can they keep up with the timely handling of voter death notices, how can we expect them to afford to keep up with the demands of HB 3521A???

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