

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL:

SUBSEQUENT REFERRAL TO:

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Action:

Vote:

Yeas:

Nays:

Exc.:

Prepared By: Erin Seiler, Administrator

Meeting Dates: 3/4

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:** Proposes amendment to Oregon Constitution establishing redistricting commission to create state legislative and congressional redistricting plan following each federal decennial census. Establishes process and eligibility for appointment to Commission Sets redistricting timeline, criteria and public hearing requirements for draft and final plans. Vests authority in Oregon Supreme Court to determine redistricting plan, if commission fails to adopt plan by July 1. Sets redistricting criteria, as nearly as practicable districts shall be contiguous; of equal population; use existing geographic or political boundaries; not divide communities of common interest which means contiguous population that shares common social and economic interests, including but not limited to: living in urban, rural, industrial or agricultural areas; or sharing common work opportunities, transportation facilities or standards of living; and be connected by transportation links; and minimize the number of persons assigned to new districts State legislative and congressional districts may not be drawn for the purpose of: favoring or opposing any political party, incumbent legislator or other person or diluting the voting strength of any language or ethnic minority group. Refers proposed amendment to people for their approval or rejection at 2014 general election.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

**EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:**

**BACKGROUND:** Every ten years, it is the responsibility of the Legislative Assembly, as vested by the Oregon Constitution, to redraw legislative and congressional district lines based on new U.S. Census data. ORS 188.010 establishes criteria to guide the Legislative Assembly when redrawing district boundaries. According to this statute, each district, as nearly practicable, should: be contiguous; be of equal population; utilize existing geographic or political boundaries; not divide communities of common interest; and be connected by transportation links. The criteria further state that: 1) no district shall be drawn for the purpose of favoring any political party, incumbent legislator, or other person; 2) no district shall be drawn for the purpose of diluting the voting strength of any language or ethnic minority group; and 3) two state House of Representative districts shall be wholly included within each single state senatorial district.

House Joint Resolution 17, if approved by the people, would remove redistricting authority from the Legislative Assembly and vest it in a redistricting commission. In addition, the criteria to guide the commission would be added to Article IV of the Constitution.

3/4/2013 9:42:00 AM \*

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