

PRELIMINARY STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

CARRIER:

House Committee on Rules

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: May have fiscal impact, statement not yet issued

SUBSEQUENT REFERRAL TO:

Action:

Vote:

Yeas:

Nays:

Exc.:

Prepared By: Erin Seiler, Administrator

Meeting Dates: 3/11

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Adjusts hours of business for county clerk on election days. Renames card issued to voters upon registration, or update to registration, to “voter notification card.” Allows Secretary of State to approve automated system for county clerks to use to verify signatures of voters casting ballots. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:

-1 amendment: Removes provision allowing Secretary of State to approve automated system for county clerks to use to verify signatures of voters who cast ballots. Changes requirement throughout election statutes that election-related documents be filed with county clerk or other filing officer from not later than 5 p.m. to close of business.

BACKGROUND: House Bill 2739 deal with three issues that impact how county clerks carry elections procedures. Currently, ORS 246.270 requires that on the day of any primary election, general election or special election, the county clerk’s office is required to be open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. House Bill 2739 would require that county clerk’s office to be open at least from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., permitting the county the discretion to open earlier based on its needs.

When a voter registers to vote; updates their voter registration information; or the boundaries of voters precinct change the county clerk is required to send a voter a memorandum card of convenient size containing the name and residence address of the elector, the name or number of the precinct in which the elector resides and a brief statement of the circumstances under which the elector is required to register or update a registration. House Bill 2739 renames the memorandum card as “voter notification card” and removes requirement for county clerk’s to mail notification card to voters when precinct changes occur.

Final, House Bill 2739 permits the Secretary of State to approve an automated system for county clerks to use for verifying the signature of a voter on the return envelope with the signature on the voter’s registration card. County clerk’s would use automated signature verification system all ballots cast during an election including those returned by long term absent electors using a fax machine or by email. Currently, the ORS 254.470 (9) requires the county clerk to verify the signatures of a voter’s according to the procedure provided by rules adopted by the Secretary of State.

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