

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Minimal fiscal impact, no statement issued

Action:	Do Pass as Amended and Be Printed Engrossed
Vote:	6 - 2 - 1
Yeas:	Barnhart, Dembrow, Holvey, Hoyle, Jenson, Garrett
Nays:	Berger, Hicks
Exc.:	Kennemer
Prepared By:	Erin Seiler, Administrator
Meeting Dates:	3/13, 4/15

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Directs public universities and community colleges to increase voter registration access and information. Requires public universities and community colleges to prominently display link to Secretary of State’s online voter registration tool on school’s website and on high-traffic webpages controlled by administration during academic term in which election is to be held. Adds resident life programming and activities to activities when student government may provide voter registration information. Requires public university or community college to send two reminders, via email or social media, to each student during academic term when election will occur, with link to voter registration system. Grants university or community college ability to allow official student government opportunity to provide classroom presentation.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Changing university and community college governance and need to establish consistency
- Costs associated with implementation
- Current utilization of volunteers to do registration work
- Standardizing access to voter registration information across university system
- Best method of reaching students, i.e. email or social media
- Removal of obstacles to student participation in elections
- Possible amendments
- Necessity of measure
- Flexibility provided to universities and community colleges

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: Requires public universities and community colleges to prominently display link to Secretary of State’s online voter registration tool on school’s website and on high-traffic webpages controlled by administration during academic term in which election is to be held. Removes specific webpages that online voter registration link must be displayed. Adds resident life programming and activities to activities when student government may provide voter registration information. Requires public university or community college to send two reminders, via email or social media, to each of its students during an academic term when an election will occur, with link to online voter registration system. Removes specific time when notification must be sent. Removes requirement that official student government be given permission from school to make at least 10 minute presentation in classroom of every course offered during academic term. Provides school ability to allow official student government opportunity to provide classroom presentation.

BACKGROUND: College students encounter multiple systemic barriers to voting as they move to a new community for school. These challenges include: not knowing voter registration rules and deadlines, not having acceptable identification for voter registration or voting purposes, and confusion about where to vote.

In 2007, the Oregon Legislature passed Senate Bill 951, directing community colleges and state institutions of higher education to adopt plans to encourage students to register to vote and to vote in elections. House Bill 3175-A builds on the 2007 measure, with additional efforts to address systemic barriers to voter registration and voting by providing college students information and education about how to participate in elections.

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

The measure requires public universities and community colleges to prominently display link to Secretary of State's online voter registration tool on school's website and on high-traffic webpages controlled by administration during academic term in which election is to be held.

In addition, the measure would give the school's official student government permission and opportunity to provide voter registration services during administration sponsored orientation programs, campus welcome events, the first week of classes each term, and during resident life programming and activities. Finally, House Bill 3175-A requires public universities or community college to send two reminders, via email or social media, to each of its students during an academic term when an election will occur, that includes a direct link to the Secretary of State's online voter registration tool.