

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Minimal fiscal impact, no statement issued

Action: Do Pass
Vote: 5 - 0 - 0
Yeas: Beyer, Burdick, Ferrioli, Starr, Rosenbaum
Nays: 0
Exc.: 0
Prepared By: Lori Brocker, Administrator
Meeting Dates: 4/10, 5/1

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Specifies time frame for filing candidate portrait and statement in voters' pamphlet and specifies deadline for filing signatures in lieu of voters' pamphlet fees. Modifies placement of disclaimers to be included in voters' pamphlet. Revises language pertaining to withdrawal of material for pamphlet. Requires statements and arguments to be filed electronically with Secretary of State. Expressly provides rulemaking authority to Secretary of State for purpose of verification of active elector signatures on petition filed in lieu of payment of voters' pamphlet fees.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Online process for filing voters' pamphlet
- Disclaimer provisions in pamphlet
- Timing of statement filing
- Rulemaking authority in other related statutes
- Statutes codifying current practice
- Change to all electronic filing
- Technical issues related to electronic filing
- Provision of receipt or similar mechanism to confirm information has been sent
- Size of portrait and length of statement parameters

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

BACKGROUND: The Oregon voters' pamphlet was first published by the Secretary of State in 1904 to disseminate the text of measures to be voted on by the people of Oregon. Beginning in 1910, the legislature ordered that information about state level candidates running for office also be included in the pamphlet. Oregon became one of the first states to print and distribute such a publication. A copy of the voters' pamphlet is mailed to every household in the state preceding each primary and general election, and before special elections involving state measures or candidates for state office.

Senate Bill 147 makes several administrative changes relating to the voters' pamphlet. It requires that all voters' pamphlet statements be filed electronically through ORESTAR, the Oregon Elections System for Tracking and Reporting. Senate Bill 147 also modifies the disclaimer placement requirement, establishes parameters for submitting signatures so that the Elections Division and county clerks have time to verify those signatures, and expressly provides rulemaking authority to the Secretary of State to establish procedures for verifying active elector signatures on a petition in lieu of payment of voters' pamphlet fees.