

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: No fiscal impact

Action: Do Pass With Amendments to the A-Engrossed Measure (Printed B-Engrossed)

Signers of the Report: Ferrioli, Starr

Prepared By: Lori Brocker, Administrator

Meeting Dates: 5/22, 6/12

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Modifies requirements of county elections security plans to include number and location of any video cameras located where ballots may be tallied. Requires county clerk, at time clerk certifies results of election, to submit to Secretary of State record indicating number of: ballots printed; ballots mailed to voters; ballots issued to voters at the office of the county clerk; ballots returned undeliverable; rejected ballot envelopes; tallied ballots; ballots used for duplication; test ballots; archived ballots; ballots destroyed. Allows county clerk to keep no more than five percent of total number of ballots mailed to be used as potential replacement ballots. Establishes that each county clerk is responsible for safekeeping, disposition and security of all ballots. Requires county clerk, as soon as practicable after final day permitted for contest of election or filing demand for recount, to destroy unused ballots. Requires person returning completed ballot for voter to return ballot to county clerk by mail, to office of county clerk, or any designated ballot drop location within two days of receiving ballot. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Ballot procedures in county elections offices
- Current security measures
- Impact of United States Postal Service changes on vote-by-mail system
- Handling of unused ballots
- Responsibilities of county clerks in elections process
- Surveillance cameras in elections office
- System of printing ballots on demand
- Undeliverable ballots
- Integrity of elections system
- Security of undeliverable ballots
- Destruction of unused ballots
- Possible amendments

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE MINORITY AMENDMENT: Requires county clerk certifying election result to submit to Secretary of State record indicating number of: ballots printed; ballots mailed to voters; ballots issued to voters at the office of the county clerk; ballots returned undeliverable; rejected ballot envelopes; tallied ballots; ballots used for duplication; test ballots; archived ballots; ballots destroyed. Allows county clerk to keep no more than five percent of total number of ballots mailed to be used as potential replacement ballots.

BACKGROUND: There are several statutes governing polling place elections, but some of the statutes are in conflict with updated laws governing Oregon's vote-by-mail voting system. For example, ORS 254.483 presents a conflict for county officials. The statute requires that unused ballots be destroyed immediately after 8:00 p.m. on Election Day and also requires county officials to secure and account for unused ballots on the same day and at the same time. County elections offices, however, need to have unused ballots available throughout the tallying and certification process to duplicate damaged ballots and otherwise process the election.

6/26/2013 8:43:00 AM

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

House Bill 2199B requires that an accounting of all ballots and ballot envelopes be reported to the Secretary of State once the county clerk certifies the election. The measure also establishes parameters for ballots being returned to county clerks and revises security procedures to include identification of video surveillance cameras within elections offices.