

House Joint Memorial 8

Sponsored by COMMITTEE ON RULES (at the request of Representative Michael Dembrow)

SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced**.

Urges Congress to pass legislation requiring states to eliminate barriers to voting.

JOINT MEMORIAL

To the Senate and the House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled:

We, your memorialists, the Seventy-seventh Legislative Assembly of the State of Oregon, in legislative session assembled, respectfully represent as follows:

Whereas obstacles posed by voting laws that are unduly burdensome, inconsistent or unclear have kept millions of Americans from casting ballots in recent elections; and

Whereas in 2011 many state legislatures considered and passed laws under the guise of preventing voter fraud and preserving election integrity despite a lack of evidence that voter fraud has a meaningful impact on the outcome of elections in the United States; and

Whereas studies have shown that although up to 11 percent of United States citizens lack government-issued photo identification, more than 30 states have considered laws that would require voters to present such identification in order to vote; and

Whereas many states have passed laws requiring proof of citizenship in order to register to vote, laws shortening early voting time frames, laws forbidding election day registration and laws making it more difficult for third-party organizations to register voters, all of which contribute to lower voter registration and turnout rates; and

Whereas federal law guarantees all United States citizens the right to vote; and

Whereas the State of Oregon is committed to ensuring that citizens do not remain or become disenfranchised and has taken steps to make voting and registering to vote both simple and accessible; and

Whereas expanding rather than diminishing voter access should be a common goal toward which all states aspire; now, therefore,

Be It Resolved by the Legislative Assembly of the State of Oregon:

(1) The Congress of the United States is respectfully urged to pass legislation requiring all states to eliminate barriers to voter participation in the electoral process.

(2) A copy of this memorial shall be sent to each member of the Oregon Congressional Delegation.

NOTE: Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter [*italic and bracketed*] is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.