

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Minimal fiscal impact, no statement issued

Action: Do Pass as Amended and Be Printed Engrossed

Vote: 5 - 0 - 0

Yeas: Beyer, Burdick, Ferrioli, Starr, Rosenbaum

Nays: 0

Exc.: 0

Prepared By: Erin Seiler, Administrator

Meeting Dates: 2/19, 3/3

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Directs public universities and community colleges to increase voter registration access and information. Directs public universities and community colleges to display link to Secretary of State's online voter registration tool on website during academic term that primary or general election occurs. Directs each school of higher education give school's official student government opportunity to provide nonpartisan voter registration information during: student orientations programs; campus welcome events; and resident life activities. Requires school of higher education provide previously compiled faculty information to official student government for purpose of contacting faculty to seek permission to provide nonpartisan voter classroom presentations. Directs school of higher education that owns or operates student housing to work with local county elections office prior to primary and general election to determine what address information students living on campus must provide and work to develop internal delivery system policy to help students receive ballots in timely manner. Directs school of higher education to send no more than two reminder emails to students regarding voter registration. Specifies content of reminder.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Mobility of college students
- Need to increase voter participation
- Voter registration education
- Penalties for fraudulent voter registration
- Ability to deliver ballots to campus housing
- Limitations on use of non-reserved public space on campus

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: Replaces original measure.

BACKGROUND: College students may have difficulty finding information regarding 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. Senate Bill 1581-A requires public universities and community colleges display link to Secretary of State's online voter registration tool on school's website during an academic term in which a primary or general election occurs and send no more than two reminders, via email, to remind students to update their mailing address and when a ballot must be returned to county clerk.

In addition, the measure would give a school's official student government or recognized school group, opportunity to provide nonpartisan voter registration services during administration-sponsored orientation programs, campus welcome events, and during resident life activities.

3/4/2014 11:40:00 AM

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