

Feb. 2, 2015

House Committee on Rules

Feb. 2, 2015 3 PM HR 50

Chair Rep. Val Hoyle

Vice Chair Rep. Barbara Smith Warner

Vice Chair Rep. Vic Gilliam

Member Rep. Phil Barnhart

Member Rep. Bill Kennemer

Member Rep. Rob Nosse

Member Rep. Dan Rayfield

Member Rep. Carl Wilson

I urge a no vote on HB 2177 as written. The reasons are as follows”

1. In September 2014, The Secretary of State's office mailed out over 945,000 postcards to eligible Oregonians who were not registered to vote, asking them to register at a designated on line link. Although final results were due in last week, they have not arrived, but my understanding from feedback provided by Jim Williams is that registration resulting from these postcards was very, very low. If the Secretary of State now sends out postcards to the people who chose to NOT respond to the September 2014 mailing, letting them know they've been automatically registered unless they take a specific action, aren't we going directly AGAINST their wishes, expressed less than a half a year ago?
2. Suggest instead of registering these people as active voters, maybe we should bring them onto the roles as INACTIVE, and their response would be “Please update me to ACTIVE status”, OR Please do not activate my registration.
3. The timeframe is not defined as to frequency of “data dumps” from the DMV database to the SoS office, and also from the SoS Office to counties.
4. The bill contains an ambiguity – it provides for either sos or county clerk to “issue the notification” - our clerk sees this as an unfunded mandate, and is ill defined.
5. This bill dictates the county clerk determines eligibility AFTER 21 days after notification sent. Shouldn't that be determined BEFORE notification is issued?
6. There are numerous funding issues with the implementation of this mandate. All phases of this project must be budgeted.
7. Data security there have been many issues with data security with state agencies in the past, and we need to assure citizens that their signatures will NOT be compromised, since they will be used without their explicit permission (in the case of retroactivity)

Respectfully Submitted,

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