

REVENUE: No revenue impact
FISCAL: May have fiscal impact, no statement issued yet
SUBSEQUENT REFERRAL TO:

Action:

Vote:

Yeas:

Nays:

Exc.:

Prepared By: Erin Seiler, Administrator

Meeting Dates: 3/30

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Proposes amendment to Oregon Constitution establishing independent redistricting commission (commission) to adopt legislative and congressional redistricting plan following each federal decennial census. Establishes compensation and eligibility for appointment to commission. Establishes criteria for preparing legislative and congressional redistricting plans. Permits counties to determine units representation, which are composed of communities of interest to be kept whole for redistricting by commission. Establishes timeline for redistricting process. Requires public hearings, in designated locations, before and after proposed redistricting plans are created. Plans established by Commission are not subject to amendment, referral or repeal by Legislative Assembly, but are subject to voter referendum. Vests authority in Oregon Supreme Court to review plan. Refers proposed amendment to people for their approval or rejection at 2016 general election.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:

BACKGROUND: Every ten years, it is the responsibility of the Legislative Assembly, as vested by the Oregon Constitution, to redraw legislative and congressional district lines based on new U.S. Census data. ORS 188.010 establishes criteria to guide the Legislative Assembly when redrawing district boundaries. According to this statute, each district, as nearly practicable, should: be contiguous; be of equal population; utilize existing geographic or political boundaries; not divide communities of common interest; and be connected by transportation links. The criteria further state that: 1) no district shall be drawn for the purpose of favoring any political party, incumbent legislator, or other person; 2) no district shall be drawn for the purpose of diluting the voting strength of any language or ethnic minority group; and 3) two state House of Representative districts shall be wholly included within each single state senatorial district.

House Joint Resolution 29, if approved by the people, would remove redistricting authority from the Legislative Assembly and vest it in an independent redistricting commission comprised of three former Oregon Court of Appeals or Oregon Supreme Court judges. In addition, the criteria to guide the commission would be added to Article IV of the Constitution.

3/27/2015 4:00:00 PM *

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