

Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: No Revenue Impact

Action Date: 02/13/15

Action: Do Pass.

Meeting Dates: 02/13

Vote:

Senate

Yeas: 7 - Bates, Devlin, Monroe, President Courtney, Roblan, Shields, Steiner Hayward

Nays: 5 - Girod, Hansell, Johnson, Thomsen, Winters

Exc: 1 - Whitsett

House

Yeas: 7 - Buckley, Gomberg, Komp, Nathanson, Rayfield, Read, Williamson

Nays: 5 - Huffman, McLane, Smith, Whisnant, Whitsett

Prepared By: Steve Bender, Budget Analyst

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Directs the Oregon Department of Transportation to provide the Secretary of State (SOS) with electronic records containing legal name, age, residence and citizenship information, and electronic signature, of each person who may qualify as a voter. Constitutes these records as a completed voter registration card. Directs the SOS to notify persons on how to decline registration and how to select a political party affiliation. Directs the SOS to register each nonregistered person who is qualified to vote as a voter, unless they decline registration within 21 days of notification. Increases maximum number of voters in precinct from 5,000 to 10,000. Establishes July 1, 2015, as date for determination of total number of registered voters in Oregon for purpose of maintaining status as minor political party for 2016 general election. Prohibits public record disclosure of voter registration information for persons under 18 years of age who are registered to vote. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Fiscal impacts of the measure to the Secretary of State, Oregon Department of Transportation, and counties
- Process of registering voters under the measure
- Secretary of State and county responsibilities
- Opt-out provisions
- Data security, and protection of personal information of minors
- Budget adjustments to the Secretary of State budget, and state support to counties, for implementation costs
- Emergency clause

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

House Bill 2177 requires the Oregon Department of Transportation to provide the SOS the electronic records containing legal name, age, residence and citizenship information and electronic signature of each person who may qualify as voter. Individuals registered to vote through this process would be notified of registration status, how to avoid registration, and how to adopt a political party affiliation.

Additionally, under current statute (ORS 248.008) a minor party gains or maintains ballot access by maintaining a voter registration equal to 1/10 of 1 percent of all voters and by running a statewide candidate that polls at least 1 percent of all voters participating in the preceding general election or by maintaining a voter registration equal to 1/2 of 1 percent of the total number of registered electors in the state that are registered as members of the party. HB 2177 would allow minor parties to utilize the total number of registered electors on July 1, 2015, for purposes of maintaining status as a minor political party for the 2016 general election.

Budget adjustments to address program costs will in included in the budget bill for the Secretary of State (HB 5036) or in the end-of-session budget bill (SB 5507).