

Seventy-Eighth Oregon Legislative Assembly - 2015 Regular Session
STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY
House Committee On Rules

MEASURE: HB 2855 A
CARRIER: Rep. Whisnant

Fiscal: No Fiscal Impact

Revenue: No Revenue Impact

Action Date: 03/16/15

Action: Do Pass As Amended And Be Printed Engrossed.

Meeting Dates: 02/23, 03/16

Vote:

Yeas: 8 - Barnhart, Hoyle, Kennemer, McLane, Nosse, Rayfield, Smith Warner, Wilson

Exc: 1 - Gilliam

Prepared By: Erin Seiler, Committee Administrator

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Requires filing officer to deliver by mail and email form to individual to accept nomination or election to public office, by write-in votes, if election official has email for individual. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Changes in mail delivery service
- Ability of person to accept nomination or elected position
- Amendment
- Impact on county clerk's workload
- Timeline for person to receive and accept nomination or position

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:

Removes change to timeline for notifying individual nominated or elected to public office by write-in votes. Clarifies that notification will be made by email, if election official has email for individual who received write-in nomination or votes.

BACKGROUND:

ORS 254.548 sets forth the timeline that an individual nominated or elected by write-in votes must sign and file the form indicating acceptance of nomination or position. The statute permits the Secretary of State (SOS) to prescribe, by rule, how the form a candidate must sign and file is to be delivered and returned. Currently, the method for delivery is mail via the United States Postal Service (USPS).

It is possible that changes in the processing and frequency of mail delivery by the USPS, the forms for an individual to affirm their nomination or election will not arrive before deadline. In addition, email has become a common, timely, and simpler method for people to send and receive a variety of notifications including those pertaining to elections. Email provides written proof of notification, and candidates are currently permitted to file the signed form with the SOS Elections Division via email.

House Bill 2855-A allows an election official to notify an individual of their nomination or election as a write-in through mail and email, if election official has email address for the individual.