

FISCAL IMPACT OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION

Measure: HB 2176 - MRB

Seventy-Eighth Oregon Legislative Assembly – 2015 Regular Session
Legislative Fiscal Office

*Only Impacts on Original or Engrossed
Versions are Considered Official*

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Measure Description:

Makes modifications to the filing process. Requires Secretary of State to verify factual accuracy of specified portions of candidate’s statement. Provides direction on actions to be taken when false information is knowingly provided in required candidate information for voters’ pamphlet. Makes failure to amend a filed report within 180 days of notification by the Secretary of State a Class C Felony.

Government Unit(s) Affected:

Secretary of State, Counties

Summary of Expenditure Impact:

See Analysis below

Local Government Mandate:

This bill does not affect local governments' service levels or shared revenues sufficient to trigger Section 15, Article XI of the Oregon Constitution.

Analysis:

The measure modifies the candidate filing process to allow for petition filings and makes a number of changes to update and clarify language. The bill requires that a petition or declaration of candidacy must be filed using the Secretary of State’s electronic filing system. The bill also specifies that committee directors, candidates, or chief petitioners are liable for specified violations if they directed the treasurer to take such actions. In addition, modifications are made regarding contributions and direction is provided regarding audits of such transactions. Additional requirements of the Secretary of State are specified, including the requirement to verify the accuracy of specified portions of a candidate’s statement submitted for inclusion in the state voters’ pamphlet.

The Secretary of State estimates costs of \$95,420 General Fund in 2015-17 for modifications to the ORESTAR system which would be needed to implement the requirements of the measure. In addition, the agency anticipates that costs would be incurred to review and verify the accuracy of the required information within a candidate’s statement, but the amount is indeterminate because it is dependent on the number of statements that would be submitted. Based on recent experience, the Secretary of State estimates that they would need to hire four to five staff for two to three months for each election to complete this work.