

STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Rules

Fiscal: Has minimal fiscal impact**Revenue:** No Revenue Impact**Action Date:** 06/25/15**Action:** Do Pass With Amendments To The A-Eng Bill. (Printed B-Eng.)**Meeting Dates:** 06/11, 06/25**Vote:**

Yeas: 3 - Beyer, Burdick, Rosenbaum

Nays: 2 - Boquist, Ferrioli

Prepared By: Erin Seiler, Committee Administrator**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

Removes requirement that person elected to county office provide county clerk with certificate of election. Requires electronic filing of candidate's nominating petition or declaration of candidacy for primary election. Changes certain ballot markings from "Presidential only" to "Federal only." Alters certain filing deadlines. Adds prospective petition to requirement that full text of measure being circulated must be carried by signature-gatherers and available for review. Removes requirement that signature sheets for initiative or referral petition be attached to full and correct copy of measure. Requires Secretary of State (SOS) to establish process for modifying petition templates. Requires that one copy of prospective initiative and referral petitions be sent to required officials, rather than two. Permits district attorney to make clerical corrections to ballot title for district measure. Requires all estimates, portraits, statements and arguments for voters' pamphlet to be filed electronically. Requires that district elections authority include ballot title for district election on measure at the time measure is submitted to county elections officials. Provides person, to whom civil penalty may be imposed, ability to request hearing 20 days from service date on notice. Directs SOS to prepare and allow electors, chief petitioners and their agents to use electronic signature sheets to collect signatures for prospective initiative petition. Requires SOS to verify signatures in certain instances where county clerks currently verify signatures. Establishes July 1, 2015 as date for determining total number of voters registered with minor party in order for party to maintain status as minor political party for 2016 general election. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Extension of liability to alternative treasurer for violations of campaign finance reporting requirements
- Verification of information submitted by candidate in voters' pamphlet statements
- Remedies for submission of false information
- Independent expenditures

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:

Establishes July 1, 2015 as date for determining total number of voters registered with minor party in order for party to maintain status as minor political party for 2016 general election. Removes reference "to excess of any amount (campaign contribution) necessary to defray expenditures" regarding use of contributions by campaign committees to resolve account debt. Removes change to remedy and penalties for false publication of candidate's statement for voters' pamphlet.

BACKGROUND:

Each legislative session the Secretary of State's Elections Division introduces a measure that identifies and resolves technical issues and inconsistencies in election statutes. House Bill 2176-B is this measure for the 2015 Legislative Session. The measure addresses a number of issues including: alignment of election administration deadlines,

modernization of voters' pamphlet filing procedures, updating signature-gathering process and increasing efficiency for election administration for local governments and county elections officials.