

# House Bill 3079

Sponsored by Representative ESQUIVEL

## SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced**.

Requires Secretary of State to conduct comprehensive independent audit of expenses associated with general elections.

## A BILL FOR AN ACT

1  
2 Relating to audit of election expenses; creating new provisions; and amending ORS 297.250.

3 **Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:**

4 **SECTION 1. (1) Subject to the authority of the Secretary of State to audit public ac-**  
5 **counts, the secretary shall conduct an independent audit of all election expenses for each**  
6 **general election. The independent audit is subject to disclosure pursuant to ORS 192.410 to**  
7 **192.505.**

8 **(2) An audit conducted under this section shall be used to determine the cost to the state**  
9 **and for each county:**

10 **(a) Per registered elector;**

11 **(b) Of maintaining elector registration lists;**

12 **(c) Per ballot; and**

13 **(d) Per vote cast.**

14 **(3) The audit must specifically identify the following information for each county:**

15 **(a) Printing and postage costs;**

16 **(b) Staff costs;**

17 **(c) Facility and support costs;**

18 **(d) The cost of collecting ballots from ballot collection sites;**

19 **(e) The cost of ballot storage;**

20 **(f) The cost of processing ballot enhancements and duplications;**

21 **(g) The cost of processing ballots that do not comply with the federal Help America Vote**  
22 **Act of 2002 (P.L. 107-252);**

23 **(h) The cost of ballot destruction;**

24 **(i) The cost of designing and printing ballots;**

25 **(j) The number of ballots printed;**

26 **(k) The number of ballots mailed;**

27 **(L) The number of ballots returned to elections offices by electors or because the ballot**  
28 **was undeliverable;**

29 **(m) The number of ballots stored at elections offices for enhancement or duplication**  
30 **processing;**

31 **(n) The number of printed ballots remaining unused after the election;**

**NOTE:** Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter [*italic and bracketed*] is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 (o) The number of ballots distributed by mail or in person pursuant to specific elector  
2 requests;

3 (p) The number of ballots mailed to electors that were not returned;

4 (q) The amount of any attorney fees incurred in holding the election;

5 (r) The cost of providing ballot security; and

6 (s) The cost of updating, adding to and removing names from elector registration lists.

7 (4) The audit must specifically identify the following information for the state's expenses:

8 (a) The cost of maintaining the centralized voter registration system;

9 (b) The cost of printing and distributing elector registration forms and assisting electors  
10 with registration questions or activities;

11 (c) The cost of distributing elector registration forms to the counties;

12 (d) The cost of receiving completed elector registration forms from the counties;

13 (e) The cost of training and assisting other agencies to ensure compliance with the fed-  
14 eral National Voter Registration Act of 1993 (P.L. 103-31);

15 (f) The cost to other agencies of complying with the federal National Voter Registration  
16 Act of 1993 (P.L. 103-31);

17 (g) The cost of providing a toll-free call center to answer questions from the public re-  
18 garding elections issues, including elector registration; and

19 (h) Computer hardware and software expenses, including procurement, development,  
20 quality and maintenance and support costs.

21 (5) As used in this section:

22 (a) "Facility and support costs" means:

23 (A) The cost of office space, information technology support, telephones, computers and  
24 any other equipment provided to permanent and temporary staff who work on elector regis-  
25 tration and elections; and

26 (B) Any internal or external information technology support charges the elections office  
27 is required to pay to the county.

28 (b) "Printing and postage costs" means costs for all mandated federal and state notices  
29 to registered electors, including but not limited to:

30 (A) Confirmation notices sent to newly registered electors or electors who update their  
31 registrations with address changes or other new information;

32 (B) Outgoing postage costs for the mailing of ballots and the cost of any mailing service;  
33 and

34 (C) The cost of returned ballots, including the cost of updating elector lists based on re-  
35 turned ballots.

36 (c) "Staff costs" means the total of the amount of time each full-time and part-time  
37 elections employee, including the county clerk, spends on elector registration and elections  
38 duties multiplied by the salary and benefit costs of each employee.

39 **SECTION 2.** ORS 297.250 is amended to read:

40 297.250. (1) An agency of the executive department that completes a risk assessment or internal  
41 audit under ORS 184.360, or that prepares an independent audit under ORS 352.124 or 353.160 **or**  
42 **section 1 of this 2015 Act**, shall file the completed risk assessment or internal audit with the Di-  
43 vision of Audits of the Office of the Secretary of State.

44 (2) Nothing in this section affects the constitutional duties and authority of the Secretary of  
45 State to audit public accounts.

1        **SECTION 3.** Section 1 of this 2015 Act and the amendments to ORS 297.250 by section 2  
2 of this 2015 Act first apply to general elections held on or after the effective date of this 2015  
3 Act.  
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