

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: No Revenue Impact

Action Date: 02/16/16

Action: Do Pass With Different Amendments. Refer To Ways And Means By Prior Reference. (Printed A-Eng.) Minority

Meeting Dates: 02/04, 02/16

Signers of the Report: Sen. Ted Ferrioli, Sen. Brian Boquist

Prepared By: Erin Seiler, Committee Administrator

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Requires state to use business reply envelopes for the postage of ballot return envelopes for each election held in Oregon. Requires voter to return their own ballot by mail or depositing it in designated drop box location. Prohibits person from collecting or returning ballot for voter except if voter is immediate family member or ongoing caregiver for voter. Applies to elections held after January 1, 2017. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Mobility of college students
- Need to increase voter participation
- Voter registration education
- Ability to deliver ballots to campus housing
- Methods to return voted ballots
- Reasons voters do not return their ballot
- Costs of voting

EFFECT OF MINORITY AMENDMENT:

Removes direction to public universities and community colleges to increase voter registration access and information. Requires voter to return their own ballot by mail or depositing it in designated drop box location. Prohibits person from collecting or returning ballot for voter except if voter is immediate family member or ongoing caregiver for voter.

BACKGROUND:

In Oregon's vote-by-mail system, registered voters receive their ballot, including a secrecy and return envelope, up to three weeks before an election. Upon completing their ballot, the voter must then sign the envelope and return it to the county clerk by 8:00 PM on election night. A voter can either put a stamp on the envelope and mail it back to the office of the county clerk or deposit it at a designated drop site within the county (ORS 254.470 (4)(b) & (c)).

Senate Bill 1586-MRA prohibits person from collecting or returning ballot for voter except if voter is immediate family member or ongoing caregiver for voter.