

Fiscal: No fiscal impact

Revenue: No Revenue Impact

Action Date: 03/01/16

Action: Do Pass The A-Eng Bill.

Meeting Dates: 03/01

Vote:

Yeas: 8 - Barnhart, Hoyle, Huffman, Kennemer, Rayfield, Smith Warner, Williamson, Wilson

Exc: 1 - Gilliam

Prepared By: Erin Seiler, Committee Administrator

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Establishes July 1, 2015, as date for determination of total number of registered voters in state for purpose of maintaining status as minor political party through 2018 General Election for minor political parties who maintain voter registration by having at least 1/2 of 1 percent of total number of registered voters in state registered as members of party. Establishes November 4, 2014, as date for determination of total number of votes cast in state or electoral district for Governor for minor political parties who calculate minor political party status based on having voter registration equal to at least 1/10 of 1 percent of total votes cast in state or electoral district for all candidates for Governor at most recent election at which candidate for Governor was elected to full term and on receiving at least one percent of total votes cast for candidate for statewide office. Declares emergency, effective upon passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Impact of Oregon Motor Voter on political parties
- Calculation for maintaining political party status, major or minor
- Consistency for all political parties
- Decrease in political party membership
- Legislative intent of House Bill 2177 (2015)

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

A minor political party can maintain ballot access in one of two ways: (1) maintain a voter registration equal to at least 1/10 of 1 percent of total votes cast in the state or electoral district for all candidates for Governor at the most recent election at which a candidate for Governor was elected to a full term and in receipt of 1 percent of the vote for statewide office; and (2) maintain voter registration equal to 1/2 of 1 percent of the total number of registered electors in the state that are registered as members of the party.

When the Oregon Motor Voter was adopted in 2015, there was uncertainty how the increase in registered voters would impact political parties, both major and minor, and their ability to maintain access to the ballot. House Bill 1501-A sets specific dates, prior to the operative date of Oregon Motor Voter, for minor political parties to use when determining ballot access.