

**Fiscal:** No fiscal impact

**Revenue:** No Revenue Impact

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**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

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

Establishes July 1, 2015, as date for determination of total number of registered electors in this state for purpose of maintaining status as major political party through 2018 general election.

**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 major political party qualifies and maintains ballot access by maintaining a voter registration equal to at least five percent of the number of voters registered in this state registered as members of the party not later than the 275th day before the date of a primary election (ORS 248.006). After an affiliation of voters becomes a major political party, in order to maintain status as a major political party, it must satisfy the registration requirement (the five percent requirement) not later than the 275th day before each primary election. Currently, Oregon has three political parties that have qualified as major political parties.

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 1599-A sets specific dates, prior to the operative date of Oregon Motor Voter, for major political parties to use when determining ballot access for a set period of time.