

SB 888 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Rules

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Meeting Dates: 3/27

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Establishes filing statement of economic impact or publicly disclosable recent federal income tax return as requirement for major political party candidate for President or Vice President of United States to appear on ballot and voters' pamphlet. Requires major political party candidate for President or Vice President to file statement of economic impact or publicly disclosable recent federal income tax return 68 days before primary election and 70 days before general election. Provides guidelines for redaction of certain personal information included in federal income tax return prior to public availability.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

BACKGROUND:

According to ORS 249.078, the name of a major political party candidate for President of the United States (President) can only be printed on an official primary ballot, general ballot and voters' pamphlet if certain criteria are met, including filing a nomination petition with the Secretary of State (SOS) that includes the requisite number of signatures. A candidate for President or Vice President may be included on the ballot at the direction of the SOS if it is determined the candidate's candidacy is generally recognized or advocated (ORS 249.078).

In 2017, several state legislatures across the country introduced legislation that requires a candidate for President of the United States to disclose certain income tax return and economic interest information as a criteria to have their name placed on the ballot, including California, Illinois, Arizona, Connecticut, Michigan, New Jersey, New York, Rhode Island and Hawaii.

SB 888 requires a major political party candidate for President or Vice President of the United States to provide the Secretary of State (SOS) with the candidate's most recent federal income tax information, or the Oregon Government Ethics Commission with a statement of economic interest, in order to appear on the primary election ballot, general election ballot or voters' pamphlet. Senate Bill 888 requires that a candidate's most recent federal income tax return or statement of interest be filed no later than the 68 days before a primary election and no later than 70 days before a general election. Additionally, the bill requires that a candidate provide written consent for the public disclosure federal income tax information as submitted and provides guidelines for the redaction of specified personal information.