

SB 1510 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Rules

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Meeting Dates: 2/6

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Modifies laws relating to elections. Alters the deadline applicable to filing statements of contributions and expenditures, by requiring transactions that have not been reported by the 43rd day before an election to be reported 30 days after the date of the transaction or the date that is 35 days before the election, whichever occurs earlier. Requires a non-affiliated voter who applies to vote in a major political primary to complete and sign the application and submit it electronically, in person or by mail, in a manner determined by the Secretary of State by rule. Authorizes a candidate or the treasurer of a principal campaign committee to amend a statement of organization within one business day of filing, to include financial account information. Reiterates the obligation of the county clerk to prohibit inclusion of ineligible candidate on district election ballot. Modifies the time period within which a write-in candidate must accept a nomination or office, the time period within which the district elections authority must determine the results of an election and terminology relating to primary elections. Makes technical adjustments to provisions addressing timing, dollar amounts and nominating petitions involving local elections that occur in more than one county. Declares an emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

In many legislative sessions, an omnibus, election-related bill is brought forward by affected stakeholders, including the Association of County Clerks and the Secretary of State's Office. The purpose of these bills vary from resolving statutory contradictions and aligning statutory time periods to clarifying legislative intent and repealing outdated statutes. Senate Bill 1510 is the omnibus measure for 2018.

Under current law, the general rule is that campaign contributions and expenditures must be reported within 30 days. If a contribution or expenditure is not reported by the 43rd day before the election, a report is required no later than the 35th day before an election. For a narrow subset of contributions and expenditures (i.e. those made between 73 and 66 days before an election), this scheme provides more than 30 days to report the transaction. Senate Bill 1510 eliminates this practice, requiring the report to be made within 30 days of the transaction or before the 35th day before an election, whichever occurs first.

In certain circumstances, non-affiliated voters may apply to vote in a major party primary. Senate Bill 1510 expressly requires a voter who seeks to do so to complete and sign an application and directs the voter to submit the application electronically, in person or by mail, in accordance with rules adopted by the Secretary of State.

Current law requires a candidate or a treasurer of a political campaign committee who files a statement of organization to include certain financial account information in the filing. Senate Bill 1510 authorizes the candidate or treasurer to file a statement of organization without the required financial account information, provided that the statement is updated to include the information within one business day.

ORS 254.165 precludes a filing officer from including a candidate's name on the ballot, if the candidate has died, withdrawn or become disqualified or if the candidate will not qualify for the office in time. Senate Bill 1510

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reiterates this obligation in the context of district elections.

Senate Bill 1510 extends the time period within which a write-in candidate must accept a nomination or office and extends the time period within which the elections authority must determine the results of a district election. The bill also eliminates the obligation of the Secretary of State to randomly determine the placement of names on the ballot when an election only includes one candidate. Finally, Senate Bill 1510 modifies the description of certain elections and makes additional textual changes intended to provide more clarity and consistency with other provisions of law.