

FISCAL IMPACT OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION

Measure: SB 1567

79th Oregon Legislative Assembly – 2018 Regular Session
Legislative Fiscal Office

*Only Impacts on Original or Engrossed
Versions are Considered Official*

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Measure Description:

Removes ability of major political party to use party rule, rather than primary election, to select party nominee in situations when vacancy in state office or office of state Senator occurs on or before 70th day before primary election and remaining two years of term of office are filled by electors at next general election.

Government Unit(s) Affected:

Secretary of State (SOS)

Summary of Expenditure Impact:

Costs related to the measure are indeterminate at this time - See explanatory analysis.

Analysis:

SB 1567 requires a major political party to use primary election to select party nominee in situations when vacancy in state office or office of state Senator occurs on or before 70th day before primary election and remaining two years of term of office are filled by electors at next general election. This applies to fillings of any vacancy that occurs on or after the effective date of the bill. The bill declares an emergency and takes effect on passage.

The bill will increase the number of candidates on the primary election ballot, in certain instances. In these instances, the fiscal impact of this bill to the Secretary of State’s office is the state’s portion of incremental costs incurred for an already-funded election. The Secretary of State prepares and distributes the voters’ pamphlet and collects a filing fee for each argument submitted in support or opposition of a ballot measure. Typically, these filing fees cover slightly more than one-half of the cost of producing and mailing the voters’ pamphlet. The remaining costs are paid by the General Fund. At this time, the fiscal impact to the Secretary of State’s office is indeterminate because the cost of producing and distributing the voters’ pamphlet is determined by the total number of initiatives and legislative referrals on the ballot, and by the number of arguments submitted in support or opposition of these ballot measures, and this information will not be known until after election filing deadlines. Also, the number of instances when the bill’s provision will apply is unknown. The Legislative Fiscal Office assumes that the Secretary will seek General Fund support from the Emergency Board or Legislative Assembly if the actual voters’ pamphlet costs exceed currently budgeted election expenditures.