

SB 1567 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Rules

Prepared By: Adam Crawford, LPRO Analyst

Meeting Dates: 2/27, 3/1

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Requires major political parties to hold a primary election to nominate a candidate to fill the remaining term of a statewide office or the office of a state Senator, when the vacancy occurs on or before the 70th day before the primary election that precedes the first general election occurring during the vacant term of office. Requires major political parties to select a nominee by party rule, when the vacancy occurs after the 70th day before the primary election, but before the 61st day before the general election. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Appointment process
- Election timelines
- Past practice for appointment of State Senators

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

When a vacancy occurs in a statewide office or the office of a state Senator before the 61st day before the first general election in the term of office, Oregon law provides that the last two years of the term are filled at the general election. Currently, both major political parties and minor political parties are authorized to select a nominee for these elections by party rule or a nominee may be selected by an assembly of electors or individual electors.

Senate Bill 1567 requires a major political party to select a nominee at a primary election, when the vacancy occurs on or before the 70th day before a primary election. If the vacancy occurs after the 70th day before the primary election, but before the 61st day before the general election, Senate Bill 1567 requires a major political party to select the nominee by party rule.