

**SB 944 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**

**House Committee On Rules**

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**Prepared By:** Josh Nasbe, Counsel

**Meeting Dates:** 6/10

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

Requires county clerk, following primary, general, or special election, to conduct hand count audit or risk-limiting audit.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

**EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:**

No amendment.

**BACKGROUND:**

After each general election, ORS 254.529 requires county clerks to conduct a limited hand count of ballots and compare the results with the results produced by the vote tally system. If the hand count results in a difference that is less than or equal to one-half of one percent, the voting record produced by the vote tally system is the official tally. If, after two rounds of hand counts, a difference greater than one-half of one percent remains, all of the ballots must be counted by hand and the results of this hand count is ultimately certified.

Senate Bill 944 A requires that an audit be conducted after every election, whether primary, general, or special. The bill also authorizes, as an alternative to a hand count audit, a risk-limiting audit. Under the bill, a risk-limiting audit is defined as "a set of procedures to ensure that the risk does not exceed the risk limit." The bill also includes several specifications of a risk-limiting audit, including that the risk-limiting audit be observable to the public and be based on direct visual human examination of elector-marked ballots.