

SB 670 B STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Carrier: Rep. Fahey

House Committee On Rules

Action Date: 06/03/19

Action: Do pass with amendments to the A-Eng bill. (Printed B-Eng.)

Vote: 5-2-0-0

Yeas: 5 - Holvey, Nosse, Smith Warner, Sprenger, Williamson

Nays: 2 - Boles, Wilson

Fiscal: Has minimal fiscal impact

Revenue: No revenue impact

Prepared By: Josh Nasbe, Counsel

Meeting Dates: 5/30, 6/3

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Prohibits name of Secretary of State, county clerk, or other filing officer from appearing in official capacity in voters' pamphlet or on return identification envelope, secrecy envelope, or any instructions or materials included with ballot, if Secretary, clerk, or officer is candidate in election. Provides exception allowing Secretary of State to include name, in secretary's official capacity, in voters' pamphlet.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Influence on election
- Appropriate role of county clerks
- Appointed vs. elected county clerks

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

Authorizes inclusion of Secretary of States's name in voters' pamphlet.

BACKGROUND:

In 2016, Washington state prohibited state and local elections officials from including their name, in an official capacity as the elections official, in the voters' pamphlet or on the security envelope, return envelope, or any voting instructions or materials included with the ballot, if the official is a candidate for office during the same year. See, e.g., RCW 29A.32.070. Senate Bill 670 B applies a similar rule to Oregon's state and local election officials, while allowing the inclusion of the Secretary of State's name, in an official capacity, in the voters' pamphlet.