

FISCAL IMPACT OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION

Measure: SJR 201

80th Oregon Legislative Assembly – 2020 Regular Session
Legislative Fiscal Office

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

Prepared by: Kim To
Reviewed by: Ken Rocco
Date: March 5, 2020

Measure Description:

Proposes amendment to Oregon Constitution stipulating that a Legislative Assembly annual session beginning in an odd-numbered year may not exceed 160 session days in duration; and a session beginning in an even-numbered year may not exceed 35 session days in duration.

Government Unit(s) Affected:

Secretary of State (SOS)

Summary of Fiscal Impact:

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

Analysis:

SJR 201 proposes an amendment to Oregon Constitution to change a portion of each house of Legislative Assembly needed to be in attendance for a quorum necessary for the house to conduct business from two thirds to a majority. The bill proposes comparable changes to quorum requirements when Legislative Assembly convenes following declaration of catastrophic disaster by Governor.

Because the measure is referred to voters at the next regular general election, the fiscal impact 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. 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.

Under procedures established in ORS 250.125 and 250.127, a financial impact committee is created for each state measure submitted to the ballot through the initiative and referendum processes. For this reason, LFO does not include an estimate of the fiscal impact that would result if this joint resolution were to be adopted by a vote of the people.