Senate Bill 1509

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SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced.**

Explicitly authorizes county clerk and personnel employed by county clerk to remove contents from return identification and secrecy envelopes of ballots delivered to county clerk.
Takes effect on 91st day following adjournment sine die.

1 **A BILL FOR AN ACT**

2 Relating to elections; creating new provisions; amending ORS 254.476 and 254.478; and prescribing

3   an effective date.

4 **Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:**

5   **SECTION 1.** ORS 254.476 is amended to read:

6   254.476. The county clerk may employ personnel as necessary to [*open*] **remove contents from**

7 envelopes, prepare ballots for counting and count ballots. The personnel may not all be members of

8 the same political party. A candidate on the ballot at an election, other than an incumbent candidate

9 for county clerk, or a person who is the spouse, child, son-in-law, daughter-in-law, parent, mother-

10 in-law, father-in-law, sibling, brother-in-law, sister-in-law, aunt, uncle, niece, nephew, stepparent or

11 stepchild of any candidate on the ballot may not be employed and may not serve as a volunteer in

12 the capacity described in this section.

13   **SECTION 2.** ORS 254.478 is amended to read:

14   254.478. (1) Subject to ORS 260.705 and not sooner than the seventh day before the date of an

15 election, the county clerk may:

16   (a) Begin [*opening*] **to remove contents from the** return identification and secrecy envelopes

17 of ballots delivered [*by mail and received by*] **to** the county clerk; and

18   (b) In accordance with a security plan approved by the Secretary of State under ORS 254.074,

19 begin scanning ballots into a vote tally system.

20   (2) The county clerk may take any other actions that are necessary to count ballots delivered

21 by mail.

22   **SECTION 3. The amendments to ORS 254.476 and 254.478 by sections 1 and 2 of this 2020**

23 **Act apply to return identification and secrecy envelopes of ballots received by the county**

24 **clerk on or after the effective date of this 2020 Act.**

25   **SECTION 4. This 2020 Act takes effect on the 91st day after the date on which the 2020**

26 **regular session of the Eightieth Legislative Assembly adjourns sine die.**

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NOTE: Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter [*italic and bracketed*] is existing law to be omitted.
New sections are in **boldfaced** type.