

HJR 11 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Rules

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Meeting Dates: 2/11, 2/18

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Proposes amendment to Section 2, Article II, of the Oregon Constitution providing for same-day voter registration. Refers proposed amendment to people for their approval or rejection at next regular general election.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Section 2, Article II of the Oregon Constitution provides that every citizen of the United States is entitled to vote in all elections not otherwise provided for by this Constitution if such citizen is registered not less than 20 calendar days immediately preceding any election in the manner provided by law. This provision was added by Measure 13 in November 1986. Before 1986, a voter only had to be registered prior to the election and, as of 1985, voters could register up to the day before an election. Arguments in favor touted the prevention of fraud in voter registrations and improvements in elections administration. Opponents were concerned about disenfranchising potential voters since over 70,000 Oregonians had registered to vote within 20 days of the 1980 and 1984 elections.

Of the eight other states with statewide vote-by-mail systems in 2020, all states--except Vermont--required registration prior to election day for online and mail registrations. Colorado, Nevada, Vermont, and Washington allow only in person registration on election day.

House Joint Resolution 11 proposes an amendment to Section 2, Article II, of the Oregon Constitution to allow for same-day voter registration and refers the proposal to the people for their approval or rejection at the next regular general election.