

SB 776 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Rules

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Meeting Dates: 3/11

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Permits individual who is 16 or 17 years of age and registered to vote to cast ballot in school district elections. Requires Secretary of State to establish rules for this process.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Oregon Revised Statutes (ORS) Chapter 247 states that an individual must register to vote 21 days before election day, must be a U.S. Citizen and a resident of Oregon, and be at least 16 years old. Once registered, an individual will receive a ballot and instructions in the mail about two weeks before an election. Given that Article II of the Oregon Constitution states that an individual is qualified to vote if that individual is a U.S citizen, is a resident of Oregon, and is 18 years of age, registered voters under the age of 18 do not receive a ballot until the first election that occurs on or after the voter's 18th birthday. To qualify to vote in a political subdivision, a person must be registered in that political subdivision. Senate Bill 776 permits an individual who is 16 or 17 years old who is registered to vote to cast a ballot in school district elections.