

## **SJR 25 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**

### **Senate Committee On Rules**

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**Prepared By:** Leslie Porter, LPRO Analyst

**Meeting Dates:** 3/11

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#### **WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

Proposed amendment to Oregon Constitution lowering voting age from 18 to 16 years old. Refers proposed amendment to people for their approval or rejection at next regular general election.

#### **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. Senate Joint Resolution 25 proposes an amendment to the Oregon Constitution to lower the voting age from 18 years old to 16 years old.