

## HB 3021 A -A6 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

### Joint Committee On Ways and Means

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**Prepared By:** Michael Graham, Fiscal Analyst

**Meeting Dates:** 6/9

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#### WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Requires Secretary of State (SOS) to create and make publicly available a list of five most common languages spoken in the state and each county, other than English. Requires list to be based on best available data; include estimated number of individuals in each county who speak each listed language; and be updated at least once every five years. Requires SOS to ensure each state and county voters' pamphlet mailed to county residents is translated into listed state languages, county languages spoken by 100 or more individuals, and each previously listed county language is made available on SOS and applicable county websites. Requires state and county voters' pamphlets mailed to residents in certain county to be translated into most commonly spoken language in county if no language, other than English, is spoken by 100 or more county individuals. Identifies sections of state and county voters' pamphlet required to be professionally translated by SOS and requires certain statements regarding translated voters' pamphlets. Allows translations of certain candidate statements, statements in support or opposition to a state measure, and argument for referred measure prepared by Legislative Assembly to be filed with SOS in one of five state listed languages for state voters' pamphlet. Sets conditions for submission of translations. Establishes the Translation Advisory Council, appointed by SOS, consisting of five at-large members and at least one translator member for each of five most commonly spoken languages, other than English, and for each language in each county that SOS reasonably anticipates requiring a translated voters' pamphlet at next election. Establishes membership conditions and council operational requirements. Requires SOS to consult with council to ensure translation is professionally conducted, culturally responsive, and serves intended community; accurate; and held to same standards as original. Applies to all voters' pamphlets distributed on or after June 30, 2022. Takes effect on the 91st day following adjournment *sine die*.

#### ISSUES DISCUSSED:

##### EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-A6 The -A6 amendment includes a General Fund appropriation of \$683,603 to the Secretary of State to implement the measure.

##### BACKGROUND:

The Oregon voters' pamphlet is a publication that is produced and distributed by the Secretary of State (SOS), Elections Division for each Primary and General Election, as well as any special statewide election. A copy of the Oregon voters' pamphlet is mailed to every household in the state about three weeks before each statewide election. The pamphlet includes information about each ballot measure and candidate in the upcoming election. It also includes instructions for marking a ballot, a complete list of federal and state candidates and other information on the voting process. Anyone who does not receive a copy of the Oregon voter's pamphlet can order or pick one up from any county elections office, the Secretary of State's office, or a local post office.

Oregon counties may print their own voters' pamphlets with local measures and candidates. These may be included with the state pamphlet or mailed separately. However, counties are not required to produce county voters' pamphlets.

House Bill 3021, as amended by the -A6 amendments, directs SOS to create and make publicly available a list of the five most common languages spoken, other than English, by residents of the state and of each county. SOS

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must ensure that the state voters' pamphlet and county voters' pamphlets are translated into each listed language and are available on the SOS and county websites. Voters' pamphlets must include, in each listed language, the website address for the translated voters' pamphlet, candidate statements, and arguments for and against ballot measures. The measure establishes the Translation Advisory Council, which will consist of five at-large members and at least one translator member for each listed language. Council members are entitled to *per diem* compensation and may receive actual and necessary travel or other expenses. SOS will provide clerical and other support to the council and consult with the council to ensure that the translation of a voters' pamphlet is professional, accurate, culturally responsive, and held to the same standards as the original version. The measure takes effect 91 days after adjournment *sine die* and applies to voters' pamphlets distributed on or after June 30, 2022.