Senate Bill 343

Sponsored by Senator GOLDEN (Presession filed.)

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.

Permits counties to adopt ranked-choice voting to conduct county elections.
Requires Secretary of State to create and staff division to assist counties that adopt ranked-choice voting in purchasing compatible computers, voting machines and vote tally systems.
Declares emergency, effective July 1, 2021.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

Relating to ranked-choice voting; and declaring an emergency.

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

SECTION 1. Section 2 of this 2021 Act is added to and made a part of ORS chapter 203.

SECTION 2. (1) The governing body of a county may adopt ranked-choice voting to conduct county elections.

(2) The Secretary of State shall create and staff a division dedicated to assisting counties that adopt ranked-choice voting under this section in purchasing compatible computers, voting machines and vote tally systems.

(3) As used in this section:

(a) “Ballot,” “vote tally system” and “voting machine” have the meaning given those terms in ORS 254.005;

(b) “Candidate,” “elector” and “public office” have the meaning given those terms in ORS 249.002; and

(c) “Ranked-choice voting” means a method of casting and tabulating votes in which:

(A) Electors rank candidates in order of preference;

(B) If a candidate wins a majority of the first-preference votes cast for a nomination or public office, the candidate is nominated or elected to the public office; and

(C) If no candidate wins a majority of the votes cast:

(i) The candidate who received the lowest number of votes for the nomination or public office is eliminated;

(ii) Ballots that identified a candidate described in sub-subparagraph (i) of this subparagraph as the first preference are awarded to the candidate listed as the second preference on the ballot;

(iii) A new round of vote tabulation is held to determine if any candidate has won a majority of the votes cast; and

(iv) If no candidate wins a majority of the votes cast, the procedure set forth in this subparagraph is repeated until a candidate wins a majority of the votes cast for the nomination or public office.

SECTION 3. In addition to and not in lieu of any other appropriation, there is appropri-
ated to the Secretary of State, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2021, out of the General
Fund, the amount of $_____ for the purpose of implementing section 2 of this 2021 Act.

SECTION 4. This 2021 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public
peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2021 Act takes effect
on July 1, 2021.