

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

1
2 Relating to ranked-choice voting; and declaring an emergency.

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

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

5 **SECTION 2. (1) The governing body of a county may adopt ranked-choice voting to con-**
6 **duct county elections.**

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

10 **(3) As used in this section:**

11 **(a) "Ballot," "vote tally system" and "voting machine" have the meaning given those**
12 **terms in ORS 254.005;**

13 **(b) "Candidate," "elector" and "public office" have the meaning given those terms in ORS**
14 **249.002; and**

15 **(c) "Ranked-choice voting" means a method of casting and tabulating votes in which:**

16 **(A) Electors rank candidates in order of preference;**

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

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

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

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

25 **(iii) A new round of vote tabulation is held to determine if any candidate has won a ma-**
26 **jority of the votes cast; and**

27 **(iv) If no candidate wins a majority of the votes cast, the procedure set forth in this**
28 **subparagraph is repeated until a candidate wins a majority of the votes cast for the nomi-**
29 **nation or public office.**

30 **SECTION 3. In addition to and not in lieu of any other appropriation, there is appropri-**

NOTE: Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter [*italic and bracketed*] is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 ated to the Secretary of State, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2021, out of the General
2 Fund, the amount of \$_____ for the purpose of implementing section 2 of this 2021 Act.

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

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