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February 11, 2021

HB-2679- Allows 17-year-old that will be 18 by General Election, participate in Primary Election

The Oregon Association of County Clerk's choose to remain Neutral on this bill, However, we wish to provide the committee with several matters to consider:

ORS 247.016(3) requires the confidentiality of any information related to minors. This will create substantial programming Costs in OCVR. Keep in mind we are currently receiving proposals from vendors on the OCVR modernization project.

This will create the need to generate many more ballot styles, as these voters will not be voting on a complete ballot. Washington County ballot styles would increase from 720 for a Primary election to well over 1,000, again increasing costs to counties for production. If either major party chooses to open their primary to nonaffiliated voters, this too may create another unique set of ballot styles if only selected contests were chosen for the nomination process. As of yesterday, there were 22,592 17-year old's registered in Oregon. If you whittle that number down to the number of people the bill is aimed at, then divide that by the number of ballot styles we'll have to create, then divide that by the percentage of people under 21 that tend to vote in the Primary, I would venture a guess that we are talking (on average) a single ballot style for each actual voter that would actually take advantage of the new rule. A hypothetical guess, based on experience of administering elections.

The concept creates a transparency issue. Vote history data and ballots cast will include voters for which you have no name, address or month and date of birth as the information about the minors would be exempt from public disclosure.

Observers of signature verification would not be allowed to view the process if the signature being verified was that of a minor, as they would possibly have access to the exempt data, and the concept could put voter secrecy at risk if there are very few of these voters in any particular ballot processing batch.

Lastly, it is requested to have implementation funding provided, but it appears to be a one-time application. The Secretary of State would have to determine the cost and amount of funding to request.

