

SB 27 -1 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Rules

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Meeting Dates: 4/25, 4/27

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Requires Secretary of State (Secretary) to conduct study and analyze provisions of Oregon Constitution, Oregon Revised Statutes and Oregon Administrative Rules relating to voter access. Requires Secretary to develop recommendations regarding most effective methods for improving voter access and increasing voter participation. Requires Secretary to submit report to House Interim Committee on Rules and Senate Interim Committee on Rules and Executive Appointments by September 15, 2024. Sunsets January 2, 2025.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-1 Replaces the measure. Provides ballot title and summary for proposed constitutional amendment found in _____ Joint Resolution _____, should it be referred to the people by the Eighty-second Legislative Assembly. States that statewide special election shall be held on same date as next general election for consideration of proposed constitutional amendment. Declares emergency; effective on passage.

Ballot title: "AMENDS CONSTITUTION: 'EQUALITY OF RIGHTS ON ACCOUNT OF SEX' PROTECTS PREGNANCY AND GENDER IDENTITY AND RELATED HALTH DECISIONS, SEXUAL ORIENTATION; REPEALS SAME-GENDER MARRIAGE BAN."

BACKGROUND:

[Article VI of the Oregon Constitution](#) establishes the Secretary of State (Secretary) as an elected office with a four-year term. The Secretary's duties are to keep a fair record of the official acts of the Legislative Assembly and Executive Branch, be the Auditor of Public Accounts, and other duties assigned by law.

[Oregon Revised Statutes Chapter 246](#) establishes the Secretary as Oregon's Chief Elections Officer, and states that the Secretary's responsibility, in this capacity, is to obtain and maintain uniformity in the application, operation, and interpretation of the election laws. In carrying out this duty, the Secretary shall prepare and distribute detailed and comprehensive written directives to the county clerks, and shall assist, advise, and instruct the clerks on registration of electors and election procedures which are under the direction and control of the clerks.

The Secretary's Elections Division oversees and administers state elections and works to ensure that voting and elections are secure and accessible.

Senate Bill 27 requires the Secretary of State to conduct a study and develop recommendations about voter access and report those recommendations to the legislative interim committees on rules by September 15, 2024.