

FISCAL IMPACT OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION

Measure: SB 579 - MRA

82nd Oregon Legislative Assembly – 2023 Regular Session

Legislative Fiscal Office

Only Impacts on Original or Engrossed Versions are Considered Official

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Measure Description:

Allows persons convicted of felony to register to vote, update voter registration and vote in elections while incarcerated.

Government Unit(s) Affected:

Cities, Counties, Department of Corrections, Oregon Youth Authority, Secretary of State

Summary of Fiscal Impact:

Costs related to the measure may require budgetary action - See analysis.

Analysis:

The measure allows adults in custody (AIC) at the state or local level, including youth correction facilities, that have been convicted of a felony to register to vote, update voter registration, receive election materials, including ballots and voters' pamphlets, and to cast a ballot. The measure directs the Secretary of State (SOS), in consultation with the Department of Corrections (DOC), cities, and counties, to establish rules to allow AIC's to vote.

In addition, the measure directs SOS by rule to establish a process for assisting AIC's to define their last voluntary residence prior to incarceration. The measure shall be submitted to the public for approval or rejection during the next regular general election; November 2024.

SOS anticipates the fiscal impact of this measure to be \$597,977 General Fund for two positions (0.50 FTE) and associated costs for the 2023-25 biennium and \$705,475 General Fund for two positions (2.00 FTE) and associated costs for the 2025-27 biennium. The two positions include a permanent full-time Program Analyst (PA) 3 and a limited-duration full-time Administrative Support Specialist 2 to design, implement, and maintain a training program for correctional facilities and counties to ensure a uniform and consistent voting experience for AIC's and the permanent PA 3 position would ensure on-going compliance.

The measure would also require the Elections Division to design and implement a compliance program, prepare training materials for DOC correctional officers and educational materials for AIC's, and update their software systems to accommodate the expansion of eligible voters. The Legislative Fiscal Office notes that the measure does not specify what entity would be responsible for designing, implementing, and maintaining a training program.

The Department of Corrections (DOC) reports the fiscal impact is indeterminate. At a minimum, the measure would increase the workload in DOC mailrooms and may require additional staff to ensure voter confidentiality and potentially verify AIC's residence. The current DOC population is around 12,000 across multiple facilities and depending on the number of AIC's that are interested in voting, DOC may require additional resources to provide education on the voting processes that would become available to AIC's. DOC notes that the measure would require county clerks to add a State Identification number to all mail entering facilities for it to be processed and distributed to the AIC.

The Oregon Youth Authority, cities, and counties report no fiscal impact to implement the bill.

This measure has a subsequent referral to the Joint Committee on Ways and Means for consideration of its budgetary impact on the State's General Fund.