

SB 53 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**Carrier:** Rep. Owens**House Committee On Rules****Action Date:** 05/16/23**Action:** Do pass with amendments. (Printed A-Eng.)**Vote:** 6-0-1-0**Yeas:** 6 - Fahey, Kropf, Nosse, Scharf, Valderrama, Wallan**Exc:** 1 - Breese-Iverson**Fiscal:** No fiscal impact**Revenue:** No revenue impact**Prepared By:** Melissa Leoni, LPRO Analyst**Meeting Dates:** 4/25, 5/16**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

Adds ballot handling to list of tasks for which county clerk may employ personnel during election. Adds member of household and domestic partners of candidate to list of persons who may not be employed to open envelopes, handle ballots, prepare ballots for counting, and count ballots. Limits personnel authorized to verify signatures on ballots to match personnel authorized to count ballots.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Motivation for adding a member of household
- Current list of persons, which includes family, and whether change would include roommates
- Population size and limitations on finding election workers with these restrictions
- Reasons for no votes in the Senate
- Domestic partners not required to be member of household

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

Adds domestic partner to list of persons who may not be employed to open envelopes, handle ballots, prepare ballots for counting, and count ballots.

BACKGROUND:

During an election, current law (ORS 254.476) allows the county clerk to employ personnel necessary to open envelopes, prepare ballots for counting, and count ballots. It also delineates persons who may not be employed for these tasks, including a spouse, child, son-in-law, daughter-in-law, parent, mother-in-law, father-in-law, sibling, brother-in-law, sister-in-law, aunt, uncle, niece, nephew, stepparent, or stepchild of any candidate on the ballot.

Senate Bill 53 A adds ballot handling to the list of tasks for which a county clerk may employ personnel during an election and adds members of the household and domestic partners of a candidate to the list of persons who may not be employed to open envelopes, handle ballots, prepare ballots for counting, count ballots, and verify signatures on ballots.