

SB 1574 -1 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Rules

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Meeting Dates: 2/18

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure allows a person who is 17 years old on the date of the primary election, and who will be 18 years old during the general election, to register to vote at the primary election. It requires the Secretary of State to send eligibility information to these individuals, and requires county clerks to keep a record of the number of these individuals who have registered for, and participated in, a primary election. It restricts the information on these ballots, to only items under the official party nomination ballot. It also appropriates from the General Fund an unspecified amount, for these new requirements. The measure is applicable to primary elections held on or after January 1, 2028.

Fiscal impact: A statement has not yet been issued.

Revenue impact: A statement has not yet been issued.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-1 The amendment allows the voter registration information of people who are 16 years old to be disclosed as a public record 90 days prior to the first election at which the person is eligible to vote, or on their 18th birthday, whichever comes first.

BACKGROUND:

Oregon Revised Statutes Chapter 247 requires an individual who wants to register to vote to do so 21 days before an election. It also requires that individual to be a U.S. Citizen, an Oregon resident, and be at least 16 years old. Once registered, an individual will receive a ballot and instructions in the mail about two weeks before an election. Registered voters under the age of 18 do not receive a ballot until the first election that occurs on or after their 18th birthday.

Under Oregon's Motor Voter law, if a person is not already registered to vote, they will receive a card and a pre-paid postage return envelope from the Secretary of State Elections Division, following their qualifying interaction with the Department of Motor Vehicles. This card provides the voters with three options: do nothing and be registered to vote as a nonaffiliated voter; choose a political party by returning the card; or, use the card to opt-out of voter registration.

For primary elections, only registered voters of a major political party can vote for candidates of that party. At the primary election, voters who are not registered in one of the major political parties will receive a ballot containing only nonpartisan contests, such as judicial elections.