

HB 3173 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Rules

Prepared By: Josh Nasbe, Counsel

Meeting Dates: 3/27

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Establishes terms of office when two or more county commissioners are elected at same election and one is elected to fill vacancy.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

ORS 204.005 establishes a general rule that candidates for county commission be included on the ballot at a primary or general election, if the term of a county commissioner expires the following January or if there is a vacancy for any cause in the office of county commissioner. ORS 204.010, in turn, provides for a four-year term, unless two or more candidates are elected and one of the candidates is elected to fill a vacant seat. In this circumstance, the statute requires that one of the candidates hold office for a term of two years, rather than four, but does not specify which candidate. House Bill 3173 expressly provides that the commissioner elected to fill the vacancy serves for a two-year term and clarifies that this rule applies, regardless of whether the election is held on the date of a primary election or a general election. House Bill 3173 declares an emergency, effective on passage.