

HB 4026 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Rules

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Meeting Dates: 2/6

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Reduces the number of electors who must be registered as a member of a minor political party in order for the minor political party to retain political party status from one-half of one percent to one-third of one percent of the total number of registered electors in the state.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

A minor political party can maintain ballot access in one of two ways: (1) maintain voter registration equal to one-half of one percent of the total number of registered electors in the state that are registered as members of the party; or (2) maintain a voter registration equal to at least one-tenth of one percent of the total votes cast in the state or electoral district for all candidates for Governor at the most recent election at which a candidate for Governor was elected to a full term and receive at least one percent of the total votes cast at least once in a four-year period.

When Oregon Motor Voter was adopted in 2015, there was uncertainty about how the increase in registered voters would impact minor and major political parties and their ability to maintain access to the ballot. In 2016, the Legislative Assembly set specific dates prior to the operative date of Oregon Motor Voter for minor political parties to use when determining ballot access for a certain period of time. Senate Bill 224 (2019), the omnibus election-related bill, extended the sunset date for determining minor political party status from November 6, 2018 to November 3, 2020.

House Bill 4026 reduces the number of electors who must be registered as a member of a minor political party in order for the minor political party to retain political party status to one-third of one percent of the total number of registered electors in the state for purposes of the 2022 and subsequent elections.