

HB 4026 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Carrier: Rep. Zika

House Committee On Rules

Action Date: 02/11/20

Action: Do pass with amendments. (Printed A-Eng.)

Vote: 6-0-1-0

Yeas: 6 - Drazan, Fahey, Holvey, Nosse, Smith Warner, Zika

Exc: 1 - Sprenger

Fiscal: No fiscal impact

Revenue: No revenue impact

Prepared By: Melissa Leoni, LPRO Analyst

Meeting Dates: 2/6, 2/11

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-quarter of one percent of the total number of registered electors in the state.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Impact of Oregon Motor Voter on party registration
- Major and minor party thresholds
- Party registration and unaffiliated voter trends
- Methods to maintain minority party status

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

Changes the number of electors who must be registered as a member of a minor political party to one-quarter of one percent of the total number of registered electors in the state.

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-A 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-quarter of one percent of the total number of registered electors in the state for purposes of the 2022 and subsequent elections.