HB 3029   STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Business and Labor

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Meeting Dates:	3/1

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Directs the Employment Relations Board to develop guidelines and procedures for the use of electronic records and electronic signatures in the process for designating the exclusive bargaining representative of a bargaining unit. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Oregon's Public Employee Collective Bargaining Act (PECBA), enacted in 1973, codifies the laws governing employment relations and public employers and employees in the state, counties, cities, school districts, transportation districts, and other local governments, as well as private employers not subject to the jurisdiction of the National Labor Relations Board. PECBA gives public sector employees the right to organize, join labor organizations, and be free from restraint when exercising their protected rights.

The Oregon Employment Relations Board (ERB) administers the certification (and decertification) of labor organizations for purposes of representing public employees. There are two routes to certification: election or card check. Under the card check process, a petition is filed with the ERB alleging that more than 50 percent of the employees in a unit appropriate for collectively bargaining have signed authorizations designating the labor organization as the employee's bargaining representative. If an investigation determines the allegation to be true, the ERB certifies the labor organization as the exclusive representative without holding an election. Individuals have 14 days after the petition is filed to request an election; this petition must be supported by at least 30 percent of the would-be represented employees.

House Bill 3029 directs the Employment Relations Board to develop guidelines and procedures for the use of electronic records and electronic signatures in the card check certification process.