

HB 3021 -1 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Rules

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Meeting Dates: 3/4

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Requires Secretary of State to create and make publicly available a list of the five most common languages spoken by residents of this state and to update the list on a biennial basis. Requires Secretary of State and county clerk to ensure state and county voters' pamphlets are professionally translated into each identified language and make each translation available on the county website. Requires voters' pamphlets to include, in each of five identified languages, website address for translated voters' pamphlet. Applies to all voters' pamphlets distributed on or after January 1, 2023. Takes effect 91 days following adjournment sine die.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-1 Requires Secretary of State to create and make publicly available a list of the five most common languages spoken in each county, other than English, and to update the list on a biennial basis. Requires Secretary of State and county clerk to ensure that for each county the state and county voters' pamphlets are professionally translated into each identified language and each translation is made available on the county website. Requires voters' pamphlets to include website address for translated voters' pamphlet in English and the five additional common languages identified for the county.

BACKGROUND:

The Oregon voters' pamphlet is a publication produced and distributed by the Secretary of State (SOS) Elections Division. A voters' pamphlet is produced for each primary and general election, as well as for any special statewide election. One copy of the voters' pamphlet is mailed to every household in the state. The voters' pamphlet includes information about candidates, measures, recognized political parties, and any assembly of electors. It also includes instructions for marking the ballot, a complete list of federal and state candidates, and other information on the voting process.

A county may publish a county voters' pamphlet and distribute it themselves; publish a county voters' pamphlet and have it inserted in the state voters' pamphlet for elections for which the SOS is required to publish a pamphlet; or not publish a county voters' pamphlet and have certain local candidates and measures be eligible for inclusion in the state voters' pamphlet (OAR 165-007-0030).

House Bill 3021 requires the SOS to create and make publicly available a list of the five most common languages spoken by residents of this state and requires the SOS and county clerks to ensure that the state and county voters' pamphlets are professionally translated into and made available online in each identified language.