

## **SB 791 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**

### **Senate Committee On Rules**

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**Prepared By:** Leslie Porter, LPRO Analyst

**Meeting Dates:** 3/16

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#### **WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

Establishes ranked-choice voting as voting method for selecting winner of nomination for, and election to, nonpartisan state offices and county and city offices, except where home rule charter applies. Establishes ranked-choice voting as voting method for selecting winner of nomination by major political parties for federal and state partisan offices. Applies to elections and nominations after January 1, 2023.

#### **ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

##### **EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:**

No amendment.

##### **BACKGROUND:**

Ranked-choice voting allows voters to rank multiple candidates by preference instead of voting for one candidate. When a majority winner does not exist, this method allows for an instant runoff election.

In 2016, Maine became the first state to authorize ranked-choice voting for statewide races. In 2018, Maine used it for all state and federal primaries, and for all general congressional elections. In 2020, Maine used it for presidential primary and general elections. Also in 2020, voters in Alaska approved a measure to replace Alaska's partisan primary with a "top-four" primary system and implement a ranked-choice voting system for the general election.

In Oregon, ranked-choice voting was approved by Benton County voters in November 2016 through passage of ballot measure 2-100, and was first available in the November 2020 general election. Ranked-choice voting will be used only when a minimum of three candidates are listed on the general election ballot for the office of Benton County Commissioner.

Senate Bill 791 establishes ranked-choice voting for all nonpartisan statewide and local government offices, and for winner of nomination by major political parties for federal and state political offices, beginning after January 1, 2023.