

HB 3021 -2 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Rules

Prepared By: Melissa Leoni, LPRO Analyst

Meeting Dates: 3/4, 4/13

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.

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: May have fiscal impact, but no statement yet issued

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Relationship to House Bill 2745 and requesting voter preferred language
- Data sources available for Secretary of State to identify top five languages spoken for each county

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-2 Replaces the measure. Requires Secretary of State to create and make publicly available a list of the five most common languages spoken in the state and each county, other than English. Requires the list to be based on the best available data; include the estimated number of individuals in each county who speak each listed language; and be updated at least once every five years. Requires Secretary of State and county clerk to ensure that for each county the voters' pamphlet is translated into the languages currently and previously listed by the SOS for that county and is available on the county website. Exempts state or county voters' pamphlet mailed to county residents from translation requirement if fewer than 100 individuals in the county speak the language, but requires voters' pamphlet mailed to county residents to be translated into at least one listed language. Identifies sections of voters' pamphlet required to be professionally translated by SOS. Requires counties to allow certain parties to file translations in the state listed languages for certain candidate statements or a statement in support or opposition to a state measure for the website voters' pamphlet. Requires SOS to create the first language list by June 30, 2022 and establishes implementation dates for translations of voters' pamphlets based on county population.

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).

HB 3021 -2 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

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.