

HB 2681 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Rules

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Meeting Dates: 4/29

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Prohibits elector registration from being considered inactive due to elector not voting or updating registration for any period of time. Clarifies that elector is active voter if the only reason for the elector's registration being considered inactive is that elector neither voted nor updated elector's registration for any period of time. Requires county clerk to notify elector by mail whose registration is considered inactive due to nonmatching signature or name change as of the 75th day before date of a primary election or general election and for whom county clerk has a valid and current mailing address. Establishes notice requirements. Allows county clerk to send notices prior to elections other than primary or general election. Takes effect on 91st day following adjournment sine die.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

According to the Secretary of State, an active voter can become inactive due to: (1) an undeliverable ballot or other official election mail; (2) a challenged ballot; (3) not voting or having any registration activity during the prior 10 years; or (4) being incarcerated due to a felony conviction. After changing an elector's status to inactive, the county sends a Voter Confirmation Card (VCC), which can be forwarded. The VCC asks the inactive voter to update their address or to let the county know that they have moved out of state. County elections officials may automatically update registrations with change of address information received from the National Change of Address service, Oregon Driver and Motor Vehicles Services, or the voter.

Once a ballot is received, elections officials verify the signature on the return envelope by matching it against the voter registration card signature on file. If the signature does not match the voter registration signature, the official sends a notice and registration form to the voter to resolve the discrepancy (challenged ballot). The voter then has 14 days after the election to resolve the missing or nonmatching signature. If the voter does not respond, the county clerk places the voter into an inactive status after the 14th day following the election.

House Bill 2681 A explicitly prohibits county clerks from moving a voter to inactive status for inactivity and requires that a notice be sent prior to the primary and general elections when a voter is made inactive due to a nonmatching signature or name change.