

SB 571 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Judiciary and Ballot Measure 110 Implementation

Action Date: 04/05/21

Action: Do pass with amendments and requesting referral to Ways and Means. (Printed A-Engrossed.)

Vote: 4-3-0-0

Yeas: 4 - Dembrow, Gelser, Manning Jr, Prozanski

Nays: 3 - Heard, Linthicum, Thatcher

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: No revenue impact

Prepared By: Gillian Fischer, Counsel

Meeting Dates: 2/24, 3/10, 4/5

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Allows persons convicted of felony to register to vote, update voter registration, and vote in elections while incarcerated. Specifies that person's residence is where person resided prior to incarceration. Directs the Secretary of State, in consultation with the Department of Corrections, cities, and counties that operate local correctional facilities to establish by rule, certain procedures to facilitate voting registration and participation as specified by measure. Directs the Secretary of State to establish by rule a process for identifying the last voluntary residence of the individual prior to the confinement for the purposes of the individual registering to vote or updating the individual's voter registration.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Voting restrictions for adults in custody
- Procedural requirements of measure
- National trends relating to voting restrictions for certain felony convictions

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

Authorizes the Secretary of State, in consultation with the Department of Corrections, cities, and counties, that operate local correctional facilities, to establish, by rule, certain procedures to facilitate voting registration and participation as specified by measure. Directs the Secretary of State to establish by rule a process for identifying the last voluntary residence of the individual prior to the confinement for the purposes of the individual registering to vote or updating the individual's voter registration.

BACKGROUND:

Under ORS 137.281, a person convicted of any crime and serving a term of imprisonment in any federal correctional institution in this state is deprived of the rights to register to vote, update a registration, or vote in any election in this state from the date of sentencing until: (a) The person is discharged or paroled from imprisonment; or (b) The person's conviction is set aside.

Senate Bill 571 A removes the above voting restrictions for incarcerated individuals and allows those individuals to register to vote in their county of residence prior to incarceration.