

A-Engrossed
Senate Bill 259

Ordered by the Senate May 10
Including Senate Amendments dated May 10

Printed pursuant to Senate Interim Rule 213.28 by order of the President of the Senate in conformance with pre-session filing rules, indicating neither advocacy nor opposition on the part of the President (at the request of Senate Interim Committee on Rules and Executive Appointments)

SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure.

[Requires Secretary of State to conduct study and analyze provisions relating to civic engagement. Requires secretary to develop recommendations regarding most effective methods for ensuring maximum amount of civic engagement in redistricting process.]

[Requires secretary to submit report to interim legislative committees on rules by September 15, 2022.]

[Sunsets January 2, 2023.]

Modifies statutory deadlines for reapportionment of congressional districts and judicial review.

Establishes date by which candidate for state Senator, state Representative or Representative in Congress can first file nominating petition, declaration of candidacy or voters' pamphlet portrait and statement for May 2022 primary election.

Permits Secretary of State to adopt rules revising or establishing additional deadlines or filing dates to ensure fair and orderly nomination or election of candidates at May 2022 election while implementing revised state legislative and congressional reapportionment deadlines.

Declares emergency, effective on passage.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1
2 Relating to redistricting; and declaring an emergency.

3 Whereas Oregon bases both state legislative reapportionment plans and congressional reapportionment plans on P.L. 94-171 redistricting data from the United States Census Bureau ("census redistricting data"); and

4 Whereas the COVID-19 pandemic prevented the United States Census Bureau from meeting its requirement under federal law to provide census redistricting data to Oregon by March 31, 2021; and

5 Whereas the United States Census Bureau has publicly stated that it will provide final census redistricting data to Oregon in a legacy format by "mid-to-late August 2021"; and

6 Whereas the anticipated August 2021 delivery date of census redistricting data would make it impossible for the Legislative Assembly to enact either a state legislative reapportionment plan based on the census redistricting data by the July 1, 2021, deadline set forth in Article IV, section 6, of the Oregon Constitution, or a congressional reapportionment plan based on the census redistricting data by the July 1, 2021, deadline set forth in ORS 188.125; and

7 Whereas the Legislative Assembly petitioned the Oregon Supreme Court both to extend the deadline for state legislative reapportionment set forth in Article IV, section 6, of the Oregon Constitution, and to permit the Legislative Assembly to conduct state legislative reapportionment during a special session; and

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NOTE: Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter *[italic and bracketed]* is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 Whereas the Oregon Supreme Court granted the petition from the Legislative Assembly and
2 established a deadline of September 27, 2021, for the Legislative Assembly to enact a state legisla-
3 tive reapportionment plan; and

4 Whereas the timeline for enactment and judicial review of a 2021 state legislative reapportion-
5 ment plan that was established by the Oregon Supreme Court will permit the 2022 primary election
6 and the 2022 general election to take place on their regularly scheduled dates; and

7 Whereas the Legislative Assembly has a long history of having the same legislative committees
8 be responsible for enacting both a state legislative reapportionment plan and a congressional reap-
9 portionment plan; and

10 Whereas the Legislative Assembly intends to convene a special session to enact both a state
11 legislative reapportionment plan and a congressional reapportionment plan before the September 27,
12 2021, deadline for enacting a state legislative reapportionment plan established by the Oregon Su-
13 preme Court; now, therefore,

14 **Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:**

15 **SECTION 1. (1) Notwithstanding ORS 188.125, this section provides the exclusive method**
16 **for an elector to file a petition with a circuit court on or before December 31, 2022, to:**

17 **(a) Challenge a legislatively adopted reapportionment plan; or**

18 **(b) Request a reapportionment of congressional districts.**

19 **(2) An elector may file a petition in Marion County Circuit Court on or before October**
20 **25, 2021, to:**

21 **(a) Challenge a legislatively adopted reapportionment plan; or**

22 **(b) Request a reapportionment of congressional districts if:**

23 **(A) The Legislative Assembly failed to pass a reapportionment of congressional districts**
24 **by September 27, 2021; or**

25 **(B) The Governor vetoed the reapportionment of congressional districts passed by the**
26 **Legislative Assembly and the Legislative Assembly did not override the veto.**

27 **(3) The Secretary of State shall serve as respondent in any petition filed under subsection**
28 **(2) of this section.**

29 **(4) An elector may file a petition in Marion County Circuit Court on or before November**
30 **1, 2021, to intervene in a petition filed under subsection (2) of this section.**

31 **(5)(a) A petition filed under subsection (2) or (4) of this section may include any materials**
32 **from the legislative record relating to congressional reapportionment plans.**

33 **(b) A petition filed under subsection (2) of this section must include:**

34 **(A) The legislatively adopted reapportionment plan that is being challenged and an ex-**
35 **planation of the factual and legal defects in the plan.**

36 **(B) If no legislatively adopted reapportionment plan was passed, the petitioner's proposed**
37 **reapportionment plan and an explanation of how the plan complies with all applicable stat-**
38 **utes and the United States and Oregon Constitutions.**

39 **(c) A petition to intervene filed under subsection (4) of this section must include an ex-**
40 **planation of the factual and legal defects with assertions made in a petition filed under sub-**
41 **section (2) of this section.**

42 **(6) If an elector files a petition under subsection (2) of this section, the Chief Justice of**
43 **the Supreme Court shall appoint a special judicial panel. The panel shall consist of one state**
44 **circuit court judge, senior judge or judge who is serving as a judge pro tempore under ORS**
45 **238.535 (1)(c) from each congressional district in this state. The Chief Justice shall also select**

1 one of the appointed judges to preside over the special judicial panel and to make all rulings
2 on procedural and evidentiary matters before the panel.

3 (7) Jurisdiction is vested in the special judicial panel described in subsection (6) of this
4 section to decide any petitions filed under subsections (2) and (4) of this section. The panel
5 may:

6 (a) Consolidate some or all petitions filed under subsections (2) and (4) of this section.

7 (b) Allow amicus curiae to file briefs and participate in oral arguments.

8 (c) Request that the Chief Justice appoint a special master to receive evidence and to
9 prepare recommended findings of fact. Upon receiving such a request from the special ju-
10 dicial panel, the Chief Justice shall appoint a special master. A special master appointed by
11 the Chief Justice under this paragraph must be a state circuit court judge, senior judge or
12 judge who is serving as a judge pro tempore under ORS 238.535 (1)(c).

13 (8) The special judicial panel shall employ the following standards in deciding upon a re-
14 apportionment plan:

15 (a) For a legislatively adopted reapportionment plan, the panel must affirm the plan if
16 the plan complies with all applicable statutes and the United States and Oregon Consti-
17 tutions. If the panel finds that the legislatively adopted reapportionment plan does not com-
18 ply with applicable statutes or the United States or Oregon Constitution, the panel may
19 create its own reapportionment plan. A reapportionment plan adopted by the panel under
20 this paragraph must comply with all applicable statutes and the United States and Oregon
21 Constitutions.

22 (b) If no legislatively adopted reapportionment plan was passed, the panel must consider
23 all plans submitted by petitioners and intervenors, but may create its own reapportionment
24 plan. A reapportionment plan adopted by the panel under this paragraph must comply with
25 all applicable statutes and the United States and Oregon Constitutions.

26 (9)(a) The special judicial panel shall decide whether to dismiss a petition filed under
27 subsection (2) of this section that challenges a legislatively adopted reapportionment plan by
28 November 24, 2021.

29 (b) If the panel dismisses the petition under this subsection, a party to the action may
30 appeal the decision by filing a notice of appeal with the Supreme Court on or before No-
31 vember 29, 2021.

32 (10)(a) The special judicial panel shall decide all other petitions filed under subsection (2)
33 of this section, including petitions challenging a legislatively adopted reapportionment plan
34 that the panel does not dismiss under subsection (9)(a) of this section, by November 24, 2021.

35 (b) A party to the action may appeal a decision reached under this subsection by filing
36 a notice of appeal with the Supreme Court on or before November 29, 2021.

37 (11) The Supreme Court shall:

38 (a) Hear any appeal brought under subsection (9) or (10) of this section; and

39 (b) Employ the following standards in deciding upon a reapportionment plan affirmed or
40 adopted by the special judicial panel:

41 (A) For a legislatively adopted reapportionment plan, the Supreme Court must affirm the
42 plan if the plan complies with all applicable statutes and the United States and Oregon Con-
43 stitutions. If the court finds that the legislatively adopted reapportionment plan does not
44 comply with applicable statutes or the United States or Oregon Constitution, the court may
45 create its own reapportionment plan. A reapportionment plan adopted by the Supreme Court

1 under this subparagraph must comply with all applicable statutes and the United States and
2 Oregon Constitutions.

3 (B) For a reapportionment plan that was adopted unanimously by the special judicial
4 panel, the Supreme Court must affirm the plan if the plan complies with all applicable stat-
5 utes and the United States and Oregon Constitutions. If the court finds that the unanimously
6 adopted reapportionment plan does not comply with applicable statutes or the United States
7 or Oregon Constitution, the court may create its own reapportionment plan. A reapportion-
8 ment plan adopted by the Supreme Court under this subparagraph must comply with all ap-
9 plicable statutes and the United States and Oregon Constitutions.

10 (C) For a reapportionment plan that was created or adopted by the special judicial panel
11 by a less than unanimous decision, the Supreme Court may, in its discretion, try the cause
12 anew upon the record. This review must be based on the record created by the special judi-
13 cial panel, but the Supreme Court may make its own determinations of law or underlying
14 findings of fact. After conducting its review, the Supreme Court may affirm the panel's re-
15 apportionment plan, amend the panel's reapportionment plan or adopt a new reapportion-
16 ment plan. A reapportionment plan decided upon by the Supreme Court under this
17 subparagraph must comply with all applicable statutes and the United States and Oregon
18 Constitutions.

19 (12) If a party to an action files a notice of appeal with the Supreme Court under sub-
20 section (9) of this section:

21 (a) The Supreme Court shall decide whether to approve the legislatively adopted reap-
22 portionment plan without any changes by December 27, 2021.

23 (b) If the Supreme Court determines that the legislatively adopted reapportionment plan
24 must be amended or substituted, by December 27, 2021, the court shall direct the special ju-
25 dicial panel to make such changes.

26 (c) The special judicial panel shall make any required changes and submit a revised re-
27 apportionment plan to the Supreme Court by January 24, 2022.

28 (d) The Supreme Court shall review the reapportionment plan revised by the special ju-
29 dicial panel and approve a final reapportionment plan by February 7, 2022.

30 (13) If a party to an action files a notice of appeal with the Supreme Court under sub-
31 section (10) of this section:

32 (a) The Supreme Court shall decide whether to approve a legislatively adopted reappor-
33 tionment plan or a reapportionment plan that was unanimously adopted by the special judi-
34 cial panel without any changes by December 27, 2021.

35 (b) The Supreme Court shall decide whether to approve a less than unanimous decision
36 of the special judicial panel without any changes by December 27, 2021.

37 (c) If the Supreme Court determines that changes are required for a reapportionment
38 plan approved by the special judicial panel, by December 27, 2021, the Supreme Court shall
39 direct the panel to make such changes.

40 (d) The special judicial panel shall make any required changes and submit a revised re-
41 apportionment plan to the Supreme Court by January 24, 2022.

42 (e) The Supreme Court shall review the reapportionment plan revised by the special ju-
43 dicial panel and approve a final reapportionment plan by February 7, 2022.

44 (14) A final reapportionment plan resulting from a petition filed under subsection (2) or
45 (4) of this section becomes operative on the later of:

1 (a) January 1, 2022; or

2 (b) The day after the reapportionment plan is approved and becomes final under this
3 section.

4 (15) As used in this section, “elector” and “legislatively adopted reapportionment plan”
5 have the meanings given those terms in ORS 188.125.

6 **SECTION 2.** (1) Notwithstanding ORS 249.037, for the nominating election held on May
7 17, 2022:

8 (a) A nominating petition or declaration of candidacy for the major political party nomi-
9 nation to the office of state Senator or state Representative shall be filed not later than the
10 70th day before the date of the nominating election and not sooner than:

11 (A) October 26, 2021, if the Legislative Assembly enacts a state legislative reapportion-
12 ment plan on or before September 27, 2021, and no elector files an objection to the plan with
13 the Oregon Supreme Court by October 25, 2021;

14 (B) November 16, 2021, if:

15 (i) The Legislative Assembly fails to enact a state legislative reapportionment plan by
16 September 27, 2021;

17 (ii) The Secretary of State makes a state legislative reapportionment plan that is filed
18 with the Oregon Supreme Court by October 18, 2021; and

19 (iii) No elector files an objection to the plan with the Oregon Supreme Court by Novem-
20 ber 15, 2021; or

21 (C) The day a state legislative reapportionment plan becomes effective for purposes of
22 Article IV, section 6 (6)(b), of the Oregon Constitution, under the revised deadlines estab-
23 lished by the Oregon Supreme Court in the court’s opinion dated April 9, 2021, in the case
24 of State ex rel. Kotek v. Fagan, 367 Or. 803 (2021), and the related peremptory writ of
25 mandamus and appellate judgment issued by the court on April 19, 2021.

26 (b) A nominating petition or declaration of candidacy for the major political party nomi-
27 nation to the office of Representative in Congress shall be filed not later than the 70th day
28 before the date of the nominating election and not sooner than:

29 (A) October 26, 2021, if the Legislative Assembly enacts a congressional reapportionment
30 plan on or before September 27, 2021, and no elector files an objection to the plan with the
31 Marion County Circuit Court in a manner specifically provided by law for challenging a
32 legislatively adopted reapportionment plan; or

33 (B) The day a congressional reapportionment plan becomes operative under the laws of
34 this state, if an elector files a petition in Marion County Circuit Court on or before October
35 25, 2021, in the manner specifically provided by law to either challenge a legislatively adopted
36 reapportionment plan or request a reapportionment of congressional districts.

37 (2) Notwithstanding ORS 251.065, for the nominating election held on May 17, 2022, a
38 candidate for the major political party nomination to the office of state Senator, state Rep-
39 resentative or Representative in Congress may file with the Secretary of State a portrait of
40 the candidate and a statement of the reasons the candidate should be nominated no later
41 than the 68th day before the nominating election and not sooner than the day after the
42 candidate is eligible to file a nominating petition or declaration of candidacy under subsection
43 (1) of this section.

44 (3)(a) Notwithstanding any other provision of ORS chapters 246 to 260, the Secretary of
45 State may adopt rules establishing revised deadlines or filing dates for the primary election

1 held on May 17, 2022, or the nominating election held on the same date as the primary
2 election held on May 17, 2022, to the extent necessary to ensure the fair and orderly nomi-
3 nation or election of candidates while:

4 (A) Implementing the revised deadlines for state legislative reapportionment established
5 by the Oregon Supreme Court in the opinion, writ and appellate judgment described in sub-
6 section (1)(a)(C) of this section; and

7 (B) Implementing any revisions enacted by the Eighty-first Legislative Assembly during
8 the 2021 regular session relating to the enactment, judicial review or operative date of a
9 congressional reapportionment plan.

10 (b) Rules adopted by the Secretary of State under this subsection may include deadlines
11 or filing dates for a candidate for the major political party nomination to the office of state
12 Senator, state Representative or Representative in Congress in any scenario not otherwise
13 prescribed by this section.

14 (4) As used in this section:

15 (a) “Candidate” and “elector” have the meanings given those terms in ORS 249.002.

16 (b) “Legislatively adopted reapportionment plan” has the meaning given that term in ORS
17 188.125.

18 (c) “Major political party” means a political party that qualifies as a major political party
19 under ORS 248.006.

20 **SECTION 3.** Sections 1 and 2 of this 2021 Act are repealed on January 2, 2023.

21 **SECTION 4.** This 2021 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public
22 peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2021 Act takes effect
23 on its passage.
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