

Senate Bill 776

Sponsored by Senator DEMBROW; Senators FREDERICK, GOLDEN, MANNING JR, Representatives BYNUM, CAMPOS, DEXTER, HELM, POWER, REARDON, RUIZ, WILDE

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 **as introduced**.

Permits individual who is 16 or 17 years of age and registered to vote to cast ballot in school district elections.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1
2 Relating to voting in district elections; creating new provisions; and amending ORS 247.016 and
3 332.118.

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

5 **SECTION 1. Section 2 of this 2021 Act is added to and made a part of ORS chapter 332.**

6 **SECTION 2. (1) Notwithstanding ORS 247.016 (2) or 255.005 (6), an individual may vote in**
7 **all school district elections, including the nomination and election of school directors, if the**
8 **individual:**

9 (a) **Is 16 or 17 years of age;**

10 (b) **Has registered to vote in the manner described in ORS 247.012;**

11 (c) **Resides at an address that is within the geographic boundaries of the area eligible to**
12 **cast ballots in the school district election; and**

13 (d) **Is registered to vote in the school district election not less than 20 calendar days**
14 **immediately preceding the election.**

15 (2) **The Secretary of State by rule shall establish a process to allow individuals described**
16 **in subsection (1) of this section to cast ballots in school district elections. The process must**
17 **ensure that:**

18 (a) **An individual who votes under the process established in this subsection receives a**
19 **ballot that permits the individual to cast a vote only in school district elections; and**

20 (b) **To the extent practicable, the ballot style that is used to create ballots for individuals**
21 **described in subsection (1) of this section is the same as the ballot style used in other ballots**
22 **for the same school district elections.**

23 **SECTION 3. ORS 332.118 is amended to read:**

24 332.118. Except as provided in ORS 255.400 to 255.424:

25 (1) Unless specifically provided **in section 2 of this 2021 Act** or otherwise, ORS chapter 255
26 governs the following:

27 (a) The nomination and election of school directors.

28 (b) The conduct of all school district elections.

29 (2) ORS 249.865 to 249.877 govern the recall of school board members.

30 (3) The Secretary of State has supervising authority over all elections conducted by school dis-
31 tricts and over elections conducted by a district boundary board.

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 (4) A petition for a proposed change or merger under ORS 330.095, a remonstrance petition un-
 2 der ORS 330.101, a petition for zoning under ORS 332.128 or a petition to lengthen the course of
 3 study under ORS 335.495 may not be circulated for signatures until the prospective petition has been
 4 filed with the county clerk. The prospective petition must designate the names and residence ad-
 5 dresses of not more than three persons as chief petitioner. The authority of the Secretary of State
 6 and the application of the election laws commence when the prospective petition is filed with the
 7 county clerk. The filing of the prospective petition is to be treated like a prospective petition for
 8 an initiative, referendum or recall. Except as otherwise provided in ORS 330.080 to 330.113, ORS
 9 chapter 255 applies to the procedures applicable to petitions described in this subsection and the
 10 elections held on the petitions.

11 **SECTION 4.** ORS 247.016 is amended to read:

12 247.016. (1) Subject to this section, an otherwise qualified person who is at least 16 years of age
 13 may register to vote.

14 (2) **Except as provided in section 2 of this 2021 Act**, a person who registers to vote under
 15 subsection (1) of this section may not vote in an election until the person attains the age of 18 years.

16 (3) If a person who registers to vote under subsection (1) of this section will be under 18 years
 17 of age on the date of the next election held on a date listed in ORS 171.185 or the next special
 18 election, the person's voter registration information, including but not limited to the person's name
 19 and any identifying information, may not be disclosed as a public record under ORS 192.311 to
 20 192.478.

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