

## **HB 2585 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**

### **House Committee On Rules**

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**Prepared By:** Melissa Leoni, LPRO Analyst

**Meeting Dates:** 2/14

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#### **WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

Ends automatic voter registration system through Oregon Motor Voter. Reestablishes registration process through any office of Department of Transportation where licenses or renewal applications are distributed or received. Allows person at least 17 years of age to register to vote when person applies for issuance or renewal of Oregon driver license or state identification card or submits change of address application form to department. Requires department to develop procedures for each application and change of address and for Secretary of State to approve voter registration portion of such procedures. Adds completing voter registration portion of drivers license or state identification card application and change of address forms to voter registration methods. Requires written evidence for county clerk to update voter registration. Makes changes applicable to voter registrations and updates to voter registrations that occur on or after January 1, 2024.

#### **ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

##### **EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:**

No amendment.

##### **BACKGROUND:**

Automatic voter registration (AVR) is a process where eligible voters are automatically registered to vote when they interact with certain government agencies, most commonly as an opt-out process following interactions with state Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) offices. In 2016, Oregon became the first state to automatically register eligible citizens who are not currently registered to vote when they apply for an original, renewal, or replacement driver license, permit, or identification card through the DMV.

House Bill 2177 (2015) required the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT), as a designated voter registration agency, to provide the Elections Division of the Secretary of State (SOS) with the electronic records of each person who may be eligible to vote after certain interactions with the DMV. The law, known as “Oregon Motor Voter,” was enacted by the Legislative Assembly to modernize the federal “Motor Voter Act” that required DMVs in most states to offer voter registration services, primarily by asking customers if they would like to register. Under Oregon Motor Voter, if a person is not already registered to vote, they receive a card and a pre-paid postage return envelope from the SOS Elections Division following certain interactions with the DMV.

As of January 2022, 22 states and Washington, D.C., are categorized by the National Conference of State Legislatures as having enacted or implemented AVR.

House Bill 2585 ends automatic voter registration and reestablishes registration procedures that existed prior to the enactment of Oregon Motor Voter.