

FISCAL IMPACT OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION**Measure: SB 579**

82nd Oregon Legislative Assembly – 2023 Regular Session

Legislative Fiscal Office

Only Impacts on Original or Engrossed Versions are Considered Official

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Measure Description:

Allows persons convicted of felony to register to vote, update voter registration and vote in elections while incarcerated.

Government Unit(s) Affected:

Cities, Counties, Department of Corrections, Oregon Youth Authority, Secretary of State

Summary of Fiscal Impact:

Costs related to the measure may require budgetary action - See analysis.

Analysis:

The measure allows adults in custody (AIC) at the state or local level, that have been convicted of a felony to register to vote, update voter registration, receive election materials, including ballots and voters' pamphlets, and to cast a ballot and directs the Secretary of State, in consultation with the Department of Corrections, cities, and counties, to establish rules for this process.

The Secretary of State anticipates the fiscal impact of this measure to be \$500,000 General Fund for two positions (2.00 FTE) and associated costs for the 2023-25 biennium and \$300,000 General Fund and one position (1.00 FTE) for the 2025-27 biennium. The two positions include a permanent full-time Operations and Policy Analyst 2 and a limited-duration full-time Operations and Policy Analyst 3 to design, implement, and maintain a training program. However, the Legislative Fiscal Office (LFO) notes that the measure does not specify what entity would be responsible for educating AIC's of their voting rights or designing, implementing, and maintaining this program.

The Department of Corrections (DOC) reports the fiscal impact is indeterminate. At a minimum, the measure would increase the workload in DOC mailrooms and may require additional staff to ensure voter confidentiality. The current DOC population is around 12,000 across multiple facilities and depending on the number of AIC's that are interested in voting, DOC may require additional resources to provide education on the voting processes now available to AIC's. DOC notes that the measure would require county clerks to add a State Identification (SID) number to all mail entering facilities for it to be processed and distributed to the AIC.

LFO believes this measure may have a fiscal impact on cities and counties. LFO requested, but has not received, fiscal impact information from either. In absence of this information, the fiscal impact to cities and counties is indeterminate. If fiscal impact information is provided by cities and counties, LFO will issue a revised fiscal impact statement.

The Oregon Youth Authority reports no fiscal impact to implement the bill.