

**SB 877 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**

**Carrier:** Sen. Smith DB

**Senate Committee On Rules**

---

**Action Date:** 03/14/23

**Action:** Do pass with amendments. (Printed A-Eng.)

**Vote:** 4-0-1-0

**Yeas:** 4 - Hansell, Knopp, Lieber, Manning Jr

**Exc:** 1 - Steiner

**Fiscal:** No fiscal impact

**Revenue:** No revenue impact

**Prepared By:** Leslie Porter, LPRO Analyst

**Meeting Dates:** 3/7, 3/14

---

**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

Extends current term of third county commissioner by two years when terms of three county commissioners are not staggered because two positions elected to fill vacancies were extended to four-year terms. Clarifies that terms of county commissioners can become non-staggered due to outcome of a primary election and general election. Clarifies that county commissioner elected to fill vacancy would hold office for two years. Repeals provision on January 2, 2030. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Issue specific to Douglas County, due to resignations within short period of time
- County commissioner terms becoming non-staggered is rare
- Maintaining stagger maintains quality of government
- Two-part problem addressed by underlying bill and amendment

**EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:**

Clarifies that terms of county commissioners can become non-staggered due to outcome of a primary election and general election. Clarifies that county commissioner elected to fill vacancy would hold office for two years.

**BACKGROUND:**

ORS 204.005 establishes a general rule that candidates for county commission be included on the ballot at a primary or general election, if the term of a county commissioner expires the following January or if there is a vacancy for any cause in the office of county commissioner. ORS 204.010, in turn, provides for a four-year term, unless two or more candidates are elected and one of the candidates is elected to fill a vacant seat. In this circumstance, the statute requires that one of the candidates hold office for a term of two years, rather than four, but does not specify which candidate.

Senate Bill 877 A provides a statutory basis, through January 2, 2030, to extend the current term of the third county commissioner by two years when the terms of three county commissioners are not staggered because two positions elected to fill vacancies were extended to four-year terms.