

**SB 53 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**

**Carrier:** Sen. Findley

**Senate Committee On Rules**

---

**Action Date:** 03/21/23  
**Action:** Do pass.  
**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:** 2/14, 3/21

---

**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

Adds ballot handling to list of tasks for which county clerk may employ personnel during election. Adds member of household of candidate to list of persons who may not be employed to open envelopes, handle ballots, prepare ballots for counting, and count ballots.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Accusations of elections fraud during close elections
- The need for increased transparency
- Helping County Clerks

**EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:**

No amendment.

**BACKGROUND:**

During an election, current law (ORS 254.476) allows the county clerk to employ personnel necessary to open envelopes, prepare ballots for counting, and count ballots. It also delineates which persons may not be employed for these tasks, which include a: spouse, child, son-in-law, daughter-in-law, parent, mother-in-law, father-in-law, sibling, brother-in-law, sister-in-law, aunt, uncle, niece, nephew, stepparent, or stepchild of any candidate on the ballot.

Senate Bill 53 adds ballot handling to the list of tasks for which a county clerk may employ personnel during an election and adds members of the household of a candidate to the list of persons who may not be employed to open envelopes, handle ballots, prepare ballots for counting, and count ballots.