

SB 27 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**Carrier:** Sen. Lieber**Senate Committee On Rules**

Action Date: 04/27/23
Action: Do pass with amendments. (Printed A-Eng.)
Vote: 3-2-0-0
Yeas: 3 - Lieber, Manning Jr, Steiner
Nays: 2 - Hansell, Knopp
Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued
Revenue: No revenue impact
Prepared By: Leslie Porter, LPRO Analyst
Meeting Dates: 4/25, 4/27

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Provides ballot title and summary for proposed constitutional amendment found in Senate Joint Resolution 33, should it be referred to the people by the Eighty-second Legislative Assembly. States that statewide special election shall be held on same date as next general election for consideration of proposed constitutional amendment. Declares emergency, effective on passage. Establishes ballot title as "AMENDS CONSTITUTION: 'EQUALITY OF RIGHTS ON ACCOUNT OF SEX' PROTECTS PREGNANCY AND GENDER IDENTITY AND RELATED HEALTH DECISIONS, SEXUAL ORIENTATION; REPEALS SAME-GENDER MARRIAGE BAN."

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- The protection of equal rights, human rights, and the passage of the Equal Rights Amendment in 2014
- The repeal of policy in the Oregon Constitution of marriage being between one man and one woman
- The effects of laws without discriminatory intent, specifically related to reproductive and gender-related health care
- The government's role in health care decisions
- Abortion and adoption restrictions
- Impacts of discrimination based on sexual and/or gender identity
- Whether schools could restrict women's sports to biological females, or separate bathrooms based on sex, should Senate Joint Resolution 33 be adopted
- The role of constitutional law in determining what rights may be upheld, if SJR 33 is adopted and subsequently challenged in the courts
- The Legislative Assembly writing a ballot title and how it is structured

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

Replaces the measure.

BACKGROUND:

A referral is a resolution by a governing body to place a question on the ballot for its electors to decide. At the state level, the referral process gives voters the opportunity to decide on Constitutional or statutory changes proposed by the Legislative Assembly. The chief petitioners of a legislative referral are the members of the Legislative Assembly. When the Legislative Assembly refers a measure to voters, it may exercise its authority to write the ballot title and summary, through the passage of a separate legislative measure specifying the ballot title and summary.

A ballot title is a concise and impartial statement summarizing the initiative and its major effect, which is printed on the ballot. A ballot title includes:

- a caption that does not exceed 15 words describing the subject of the petition;
- a statement that does not exceed 25 words describing the result if the petition is passed;

This summary has not been adopted or officially endorsed by action of the committee.

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- a statement that does not exceed 25 words describing the result if the petition is rejected; and
- a summary that does not exceed 125 words describing the major effect of the petition.

Senate Bill 27 A provides the ballot title and summary for the proposed constitutional amendment found in Senate Joint Resolution 33, should it be referred to the people by the Eighty-second Legislative Assembly for consideration at a statewide special election to be held on same date as next general election.