

FISCAL IMPACT OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION

Measure: SB 27 - MRA

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:

Provides a ballot title and summary for a proposed amendment to the Oregon Constitution in Senate Joint Resolution 33 (2023), if it is referred to the people by the Eighty-second Legislative Assembly. Requires a statewide special election to be held on the same date as the next general election.

Government Unit(s) Affected:

Secretary of State

Summary of Fiscal Impact:

Costs related to the measure are indeterminate at this time - See explanatory analysis.

Analysis:

Senate Bill 27, as amended by the proposed Minority Report, provides a ballot title and summary for a proposed amendment to the Oregon Constitution in Senate Joint Resolution 33 (2023), if it is referred to the people by the Eighty-second Legislative Assembly. The ballot title would read as follows:

“AMENDS CONSTITUTION: ADDS ABORTION AND SEX CHANGE AND RELATED HEALTH PROCEDURES, SEXUAL ORIENTATION TO ‘EQUALITY OF RIGHTS ON ACCOUNT OF SEX’; REPEALS SAME-GENDER MARRIAGE BAN.”

The measure requires a statewide special election to be held on the same date as the next general election for consideration of the proposed constitutional amendment. The measure takes effect on passage.

If SJR 33 is not referred to the people by the Eighty-second Legislative Assembly, then the measure would have no fiscal impact to the Secretary of State as the ballot title and summary would not be needed. If SJR 33 becomes law and is referred to the people at a special election on the same day as the next general election, then the special election would take place on November 5, 2024. Because the measure is referred to voters on the same day as the next regular general election, the fiscal impact to the Secretary of State’s office is the state’s portion of incremental costs incurred for an already funded election. The Secretary of State prepares and distributes the voters’ pamphlet and collects a filing fee for each argument submitted in support or opposition of a ballot measure. Typically, these filing fees cover slightly more than one-half of the cost of producing and mailing the voters’ pamphlet. The remaining costs are paid by the General Fund. At this time, the fiscal impact to the Secretary of State’s office is indeterminate because the cost of producing and distributing the voters’ pamphlet is determined by the total number of initiatives and legislative referrals on the ballot, and by the number of arguments submitted in support or opposition of these ballot measures, and this information will not be known until after election filing deadlines. The Legislative Fiscal Office assumes that the Secretary of State will seek General Fund support from the Emergency Board or Legislative Assembly if the actual voters’ pamphlet costs exceed currently budgeted election expenditures.

Under procedures established in ORS 250.125 and 250.127, a financial impact committee is created for each state measure submitted to the ballot through the initiative and referendum processes. For this reason, the Legislative Fiscal Office does not include an estimate of the fiscal impact that would result if SJR 33 were adopted by a vote of the people.