

House Bill 3510

Sponsored by Representative CHAICHI

SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced**.

Establishes Oregon Election Coverage Fund. Appropriates moneys in fund to Secretary of State for purpose of awarding grants to not-for-profit corporations that commit to using grant moneys for sole purpose of providing news coverage or otherwise publicly disseminating information directly related to Oregon elections.

Sunsetts fund and grant program on July 1, 2033.

Requires secretary to conduct study on how best to expand scope of voters' pamphlet to include video and audio content and how to utilize radio, television and Internet to publicly disseminate information currently included in voters' pamphlet. Directs secretary to submit findings, including recommended legislation, to interim committees of Legislative Assembly related to elections not later than December 31, 2024.

Appropriates moneys to secretary for purpose of conducting study.

Declares emergency, effective July 1, 2023.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1
2 Relating to elections; and declaring an emergency.

3 **Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:**

4 **SECTION 1. (1) The Oregon Election Coverage Grant program is established and shall**
5 **be operated and administered by the Secretary of State.**

6 **(2) The secretary shall use moneys from the Oregon Election Coverage Fund established**
7 **in section 2 of this 2023 Act to award a grant under this section to one or more not-for-profit**
8 **corporations that are tax exempt under section 501(c) of the Internal Revenue Code and that:**

9 **(a) Apply for a grant under this section under a process established by rule by the sec-**
10 **retary; and**

11 **(b) Commit to using grant moneys received under this section for the sole purpose of**
12 **providing news coverage or otherwise publicly disseminating information directly related to**
13 **elections held in this state.**

14 **(3) The secretary shall adopt rules necessary to effectively administer this section.**

15 **SECTION 2. (1) The Oregon Election Coverage Fund is established in the State Treasury,**
16 **separate and distinct from the General Fund. Interest earned by the Oregon Election Cov-**
17 **erage Fund shall be credited to the fund.**

18 **(2) Moneys in the Oregon Election Coverage Fund shall consist of:**

19 **(a) Amounts donated to the fund from individuals or private organizations;**

20 **(b) Amounts appropriated or otherwise transferred to the fund by the Legislative As-**
21 **sembly; and**

22 **(c) Interest earned by the fund.**

23 **(3) Moneys in the fund are continuously appropriated to the Secretary of State for the**
24 **purpose of:**

25 **(a) Awarding grants under the Oregon Election Coverage Grant program established in**

NOTE: Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter [*italic and bracketed*] is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 section 1 of this 2023 Act; and

2 (b) Paying for any administrative costs associated with the Oregon Election Coverage
3 Grant program.

4 SECTION 3. (1) Section 1 of this 2023 Act is repealed.

5 (2) The Oregon Election Coverage Fund established under section 2 of this 2023 Act is
6 abolished. Any moneys remaining in the account on the operative date of this section shall
7 be transferred to the General Fund.

8 SECTION 4. Section 3 of this 2023 Act becomes operative on July 1, 2033.

9 SECTION 5. In addition to and not in lieu of any other appropriation, there is appropri-
10 ated to the Secretary of State, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2023, out of the General
11 Fund, the amount of \$_____, for deposit into the Oregon Election Coverage Fund established
12 in section 2 of this 2023 Act and for awarding grants in the manner described in section 1
13 of this 2023 Act.

14 SECTION 6. (1) The Secretary of State shall study how best to:

15 (a) Expand the scope of the voters' pamphlet to require greater use of video and audio
16 content than currently permitted under ORS 251.295; and

17 (b) Utilize technologies including but not limited to the radio, television and the Internet
18 to publicly disseminate information currently included in the voters' pamphlet.

19 (2) The secretary shall submit a report in the manner provided by ORS 192.245, and shall
20 include recommendations for legislation necessary to facilitate the expansion of the voters'
21 pamphlet in the manner described in subsection (1) of this section, to the interim committees
22 of the Legislative Assembly related to elections no later than December 31, 2024.

23 (3) All agencies of state government, as defined in ORS 174.111, are directed to assist the
24 secretary in the performance of the duties of the secretary under this section and, to the
25 extent permitted by laws relating to confidentiality, to furnish information and advice the
26 secretary considers necessary to perform the study described in this section.

27 SECTION 7. Section 6 of this 2023 Act is repealed on January 2, 2025.

28 SECTION 8. In addition to and not in lieu of any other appropriation, there is appropri-
29 ated to the Secretary of State, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2023, out of the General
30 Fund, the amount of \$_____, for the purpose of conducting the study described in section 6
31 of this 2023 Act.

32 SECTION 9. This 2023 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public
33 peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2023 Act takes effect
34 on July 1, 2023.