

SB 964 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Rules

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Meeting Dates: 4/7

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure changes the definition of "postal indicator" for ballot envelopes, from "a postmark or other indicator on a mailed ballot, identified by the Secretary of State by rule" to "an official mark stamped on an envelope over the postage stamp by the United States Postal Service."

Fiscal impact: The measure may have a fiscal impact, but a statement has not yet been issued.

Revenue impact: The measure may have a revenue impact, but a statement has not yet been issued.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

In Oregon, since 2022, due to [House Bill 3291 \(2021\)](#), ballots must be returned to the county clerk either through the mail or at a drop site. If returned by mail, the ballot must be mailed not later than the date of the election, and received by the county clerk not later than seven calendar days after the election date. This is determined by the postal indicator on the ballot, which is defined as a postmark or other indicator identified by the Secretary of State.

Prior to 2022, ballots had to be received by the county, either through the mail or at a drop site within the county, by 8:00 p.m. on the day of the election. The date on the postmark did not count. If a voter used a ballot drop site in a county other than the one in which they are registered, elections officials mark the ballots as received "on time" and forward them to the appropriate county.

After election day, county elections officials resolve outstanding ballot issues, compile results, validate outcomes, and transmit results to the Secretary of State. Counties certify certain results not later than 20 days after election day. The Secretary of State must certify certain election results not later than 30 days following the election.