

SB 1014 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Rules

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Meeting Dates: 3/31, 4/16

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure requires the Secretary of State (SOS) to allow a statement of argument in the state voters' pamphlets to be translated into any of the top five most commonly spoken languages in this state, other than English, as listed by the SOS. This would be applicable to state voters' pamphlets that are distributed on or after January 31, 2026.

Fiscal impact: Minimal impact

Revenue impact: No impact

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

The Oregon voters' pamphlet is a publication produced and distributed by the Secretary of State (SOS) Elections Division. It is produced for each primary and general election, as well as for any special statewide election. One copy of the voters' pamphlet is mailed to every household in the state and includes information about candidates—including a photo, if one is submitted, measures, recognized political parties, and any assembly of electors. It also includes instructions for marking the ballot, a complete list of federal and state candidates, and other information on the voting process.

A county may publish a county voters' pamphlet and distribute it themselves; publish a county voters' pamphlet and have it inserted into the state voters' pamphlet for elections that the SOS is required to publish a pamphlet; or not publish a county voters' pamphlet and have certain local candidates and measures be eligible for inclusion in the state voters' pamphlet (OAR 165-007-0030).

[House Bill 3021 \(2021\)](#) required the SOS to ensure that each state and county voters' pamphlet mailed to county residents is also translated into the most common languages spoken in the state and each county, other than English, and is made available on the SOS and applicable county websites. The measure specifies sections of the voters' pamphlet required to be professionally translated by SOS and allows the submission of translations of certain candidate and measure statements. Lastly, the measure establishes a Translation Advisory Council and requires the SOS to consult with the council on the translation of voters' pamphlets.

[SB 1533 \(2024\)](#) increased the number of most commonly spoken languages in each county, other than English, into which the Secretary of State is required to translate and print state and county voters' pamphlets, from the top five to the top 10. It also increased the number of people required to speak a language for it to qualify as a top 10 language, from 100 to 300. It also increased the number of translators on the Translation Advisory Council from five to 10. It applied to voters' pamphlets distributed on or after January 31, 2025.