

SB 44 -2, -4 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Rules

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Meeting Dates: 5/7, 5/14

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure requires the Secretary of State to study elections.

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

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

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-2 The amendment replaces the measure. It changes statutory references of "election registration cards" to "voter registration applications."

Fiscal impact: Minimal impact

Revenue impact: No impact

-4 The amendment replaces the measure. It adds language to existing elections statutes accounting for elections using ranked choice voting, and adds a definition for "ranked choice voting."

Detailed Summary

Adds language about

- how to conduct election recounts
- how to determine the results in a single-winner election and in a multiple-winner election
- how to consider write-in candidates

Fiscal impact: Minimal impact

Revenue impact: No impact

BACKGROUND:

Election registration cards

Oregon state election registration cards are to register an individual to vote, or to update an individual's existing voter registration. They are designed, prepared, and distributed by the Oregon Secretary of State. They describe the penalties for knowingly supplying false information on the card, and have space for an individual to provide their full name, residence and mailing address(es), political party affiliation, date of birth, U.S. citizenship, and signature.

Ranked Choice Voting

Ranked choice voting (RCV) requires voters to rank candidates by preference, instead of voting for just one person. A candidate wins by receiving a majority of the first-preference votes cast. When there is no majority winner, this method allows for an instant runoff. The candidate with the lowest number of first-preference votes is eliminated and the second preference votes from those ballots are allocated to the remaining candidates and tabulated. This process continues until a candidate achieves a majority of the votes cast.