

HB 3390 -2 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Rules

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Meeting Dates: 6/18

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure requires the Secretary of State to study elections and report to the Legislative Assembly by September 15, 2028.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-2 The amendment replaces the measure. It creates a joint legislative committee to prepare the ballot title and explanatory statement for any amendment to the Oregon Constitution referred to the ballot by the Eighty-third Legislative Assembly during the 2025 regular session, or if all or part of any Act is referred to the ballot by the Eighty-third Legislative Assembly or by a referendum petition. The amendment permits any elector who is unsatisfied with ballot title or explanatory statement to petition the Oregon Supreme Court (Court) seeking a different title or statement. It authorizes the Court to review the ballot title and explanatory statement and allows the Court to modify the title or statement or refer them to the Attorney General. The amendment declares an emergency and makes the measure effective on passage.

BACKGROUND:

A referral is a resolution by a governing body to place a question on the ballot for its electors to decide. At the state level, the referral process gives voters the opportunity to decide on constitutional or statutory changes proposed by the Legislative Assembly. When the Legislative Assembly refers a measure to voters, it may exercise its authority to either write the ballot title and summary or provide an alternative process for drafting the ballot title and summary and to establish committees to prepare the explanatory statement and joint argument in support. This is accomplished through the passage of a separate legislative measure specifying that content or process.