

HB 3390 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Rules

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Meeting Dates: 6/24

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure 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 measure permits any elector who is unsatisfied with the ballot title or explanatory statement to petition the Oregon Supreme 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 measure declares an emergency and is effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

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.

The referendum process allows voters the opportunity to affirm or reject legislation adopted by the Legislative Assembly, except measures that have been vetoed by the Governor and those with an emergency clause that become effective upon signature of the Governor. To qualify for the next regularly scheduled General Election, chief petitioners must receive written approval from the Secretary of State (SOS) to circulate the text of the legislation and then must obtain the necessary number of valid signatures and submit them to the SOS no later than 90 days after the Legislative Assembly adjourns.