



Legislative Fiscal Office
83rd Oregon Legislative Assembly
2025 Regular Session

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Bill Title: Relating to ballot measures.

Government Unit(s) Affected: Legislative Counsel, Legislative Fiscal Office, Legislative Revenue Office, Counties, Cities, Department of Administrative Services, Department of Revenue, State Treasurer, Legislative Policy and Research Office, Secretary of State, Legislative Assembly

Summary of Fiscal Impact

Costs related to the measure are indeterminate at this time - see explanatory analysis.

Measure Description

The measure requires the Legislative Policy and Research (LPRO) Director to provide to the Legislative Assembly, by December 1 of each odd-numbered year, a list of prospective petitions for a state measure to be initiated that, with sufficient signatures, would be approved or rejected by voters in the next general election. The list of petitions includes the text, ballot title, and number of signatures filed with the Secretary of State (SOS). The measure allows the Legislative Assembly to hold informational hearings, instead of public hearings, on prospective petitions and specifies when the hearings may take place. The measure specifies for state measures that require a financial estimate, that the Financial Estimate Committee is to incorporate analysis requested by legislative leadership related to the prospective petition report required by the measure. The Financial Estimate Committee is comprised of the Secretary of State, the State Treasurer, the Director of the Department of Administrative Services, the Director of the Department of Revenue, and a representative of local governments with an expertise in local government finance.

Fiscal Analysis

The total fiscal impact of the measure is indeterminate and will depend on the number of prospective petitions for state measures for LPRO to report to the Legislative Assembly. Over the last five general elections, between 45 and 82 initiatives were produced per biennium. During the 2024 election year, 55 initiatives were recorded by SOS. The 2022 election year saw 57 initiatives. Assuming an average of 60 prospective petitions per general election, the minimum estimated fiscal impact is \$242,474 General Fund per biennium. If the number of petitions and informational hearings is greater, agencies may return to the Legislature for additional resources.

Legislative Assembly

The total fiscal impact to the Legislative Assembly will depend on the number of informational hearings held outside of active legislative sessions. The Legislative Assembly's budget currently only includes costs for informational hearings during short and long sessions and legislative days. The hearings would require participation by legislative members to officiate and take testimony and require staff to prepare analysis of proposed petitions. It is unknown how many petitions and how many hearings would take place. The cost of per diem and mileage reimbursement for six legislative members to attend one hearing is anticipated to be \$1,890. Assuming one informational hearing each, the total anticipated cost for one election year with an average of 60 informational hearings is \$113,400 General Fund.

Legislative Counsel

The Legislative Counsel (LC) is responsible for providing opinions, informal advice, and legal research, in addition to drafting bills and amendments. LC anticipates the analysis required by the measure is comparable to the work required to preparing an opinion for each prospective petition. Assuming an average of approximately 60 petitions, an existing Deputy position will dedicate approximately 25% of their time per biennium (0.25 FTE) to preparing analysis related to the measure, which is equivalent to \$89,044 General Fund.

Legislative Policy and Research Office

LPRO is responsible for preparing staff measure summaries for legislative measures considered by policy committees, including summaries for policy initiatives when requested by legislative leadership, in addition to staffing ballot measure referral committees. To prepare written summaries of prospective petitions as required by the measure, LPRO anticipates an existing Senior Legislative Analyst position will dedicate minimal hours of their time per biennium (0.04 FTE) to prepare the summaries related to the measure, which is equivalent to \$40,030 General Fund.

Other entities

There is an indeterminate, but anticipated to be minimal, fiscal impact to the Legislative Fiscal Office and Legislative Revenue Office.

There is no fiscal impact to the Department of Administration, Department of Revenue, Oregon State Treasury, SOS, and local governments.

Relevant Dates

The measure takes effect on January 1, 2026.