

A-Engrossed House Bill 3687

Ordered by the House June 9
Including House Amendments dated June 9

Sponsored by Representatives CHOTZEN, PHAM H, EDWARDS; Representatives GAMBA, HUDSON

SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure. The statement includes a measure digest written in compliance with applicable readability standards.

Digest: The Act would make it so that elections that affect a county or city charter would have to be by simple majority vote. (Flesch Readability Score: 62.1).
Prohibits a supermajority vote requirement for any question related to a county or city charter.
Takes effect on the 91st day following adjournment sine die.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

Relating to majority vote thresholds for local charters; amending ORS 203.720 and 221.210; and prescribing an effective date.

Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:

SECTION 1. ORS 203.720 is amended to read:

203.720. (1) The electors of *[any]* **the** county, by majority vote of such electors voting *[thereon]* **on the question** at any legally called election, may adopt, amend, revise or repeal a county charter.

(2) The charter, or legislation passed by the county pursuant *[thereto]* **to the charter**, shall provide a method whereby the electors of the county, by majority vote of such electors voting *[thereon]* **on the question** at any legally called election, may amend, revise or repeal the charter.

(3) The county charter and legislative provisions relating to the amendment, revision or repeal of the charter are deemed to be matters of county concern and shall prevail over any conflicting provisions of ORS 203.710 to 203.770 and other state statutes unless otherwise specifically provided by conflicting state statutes first effective after January 1, 1961.

(4)(a) **Notwithstanding the charter of the county or any other provision of law, the adoption, amendment, revision or repeal of a county charter shall be decided by simple majority vote.**

(b) **Nothing in this subsection is intended to prevent a county from amending its charter to provide for the adoption by a supermajority or double majority vote or by any other heightened vote requirement of measures imposing or increasing fees, taxes, assessments, fines, penalties, charges or any other revenue-generating mechanisms of any kind.**

SECTION 2. ORS 221.210 is amended to read:

221.210. (1) The city council may refer and the people may initiate municipal measures or amendments to the charter of *[a]* **the** city as provided in ORS 250.265 to 250.346, unless ORS 250.255 makes ORS 250.265 to 250.346 inapplicable to the city.

(2)(a) **Notwithstanding the charter of the city or any other provision of law, the adoption, amendment, revision, repeal or surrender of a city charter shall be decided by simple ma-**

NOTE: Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter *[italic and bracketed]* is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 jority vote.

2 (b) Nothing in this subsection is intended to prevent a city from amending its charter to
3 provide for the adoption by a supermajority or double majority vote or by any other height-
4 ened vote requirement of measures imposing or increasing fees, taxes, assessments, fines,
5 penalties, charges or any other revenue-generating mechanisms of any kind.

6 SECTION 3. This 2025 Act takes effect on the 91st day after the date on which the 2025
7 regular session of the Eighty-third Legislative Assembly adjourns sine die.

8
