

Submitter: Anna Munson  
On Behalf Of: Concerned Grandma  
Committee: Senate Committee On Rules  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3390

My name is Anna Munson. I have been a Salem resident for over 45 years. I strongly oppose HB 3390A for the following reasons:

HB 3390A represents a clear attempt by Oregon lawmakers to weaken one of the few remaining tools the people have to challenge controversial legislation—our right to an impartial and transparent referendum process.

The current standard process for creating a ballot title and voter pamphlet explanation is:

Ballot titles for referrals and referenda are reviewed by the Attorney General, subject to public comment for 10 business days, modified (if necessary) and certified by the Attorney General, and then are subject to appeal to the Oregon Supreme Court for accuracy and impartiality. The final ballot title is published in the Voters' Pamphlet, and its shorter parts are the only description of the measure actually on the ballot.

Explanatory statements for referrals and referenda are drafted by an Explanatory Statement Committee appointed by the Secretary of State, consisting of two supporters of the measure, two opponents of the measure, and a fifth, neutral person selected by the other four or, if necessary, by the Secretary of State. The Committee drafts the explanatory statement, conducts public hearings, and finalizes it, subject to appeal to the Oregon Supreme Court only for procedural error. The final explanatory statement is published in the Voters' Pamphlet.

This process assures a higher level of impartiality, accuracy and transparency are achieved through checks in which the public has the opportunity to provide input for ballot titles. The explanatory statements also have both sides of the measure and a neutral party writing the explanatory statements as well as public hearings before finalizing a statement.

HB 3390A takes away all that by giving the Legislature all the power to control the ballot title as well as the explanatory statement seen in the Voters Pamphlet. The bill states that HB 3390A:

“Prescribes the method for creating a ballot title and explanatory statement by a joint legislative committee for any amendment to the Oregon Constitution that passes both houses of the Legislative Assembly during the 2025 regular session and is referred to the people by the Legislative Assembly and for any Act that passes both houses of

the Legislative Assembly during the 2025 regular session if the Act is referred to the people by either the Legislative Assembly or by referendum petition.” (HB3390A)

This change in Oregon law permits that same Legislative body who created a bill then self-interprets the ballot title and explanatory statements. No outside input or impartiality, no transparency or assured accurate evaluation is received so the public won't know the real effects and consequences of the measures that they are voting on.

Imagine that! The Legislature wants total control over what the public sees of any new law that would change Oregon's Constitution and referendums.

Let's say a group goes to the effort to stop a new law from taking effect using the referendum process. According to HB 3390A, the same Legislature then writes the ballot title and explanatory statements of said law. These are the same people who initiated the contested bill. No objective, impartial titles or statements can ever be assured from our State Legislature again.

This stranglehold by our current Legislature must not pass.

Vote NO on HB 3390A.

Respectfully,

Anna Munson

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